

# 'Times are different... pressure still the same'

By Vanessa Batrouni  
Special to The Star

A RECENT dramatised reading of "Rest Upon the Wind" marks another step in the evolution of a new play by Jordanian actor/writer Nadim Sawalha. On a brief visit to Jordan, Nadim gathered together a group of friends and with them presented the latest draft of his creation to an invited audience.

"Rest upon the Wind" tackles the elusive character of poet revolutionary turned pacifist Gibril Khalil Gibril who at the turn of the century wrote and painted in voluntary exile in the United States.

The play focuses on the celibate relationship Gibril developed with his mentor friend and beloved Mary Haskell. The relationship, well documented in letters, diaries and dedications, indicates its centrality to his life and work in America.

In an interview with The Star, Nadim explained how he was drawn to Gibril, finding numerous parallels in his own life to that of the mythical hero, maintaining that the immigrant artist today faces similar problems to that of his predecessors. "Times are different" he elaborates "and the texture of experience is vastly dissimilar but the core, the pressures of home and abroad, remain the same."

Gibril suffered more crudely from the assumptions of the cultural stereotype, inadequate in accomplishments, than we do today but the stereotypes, refined, still exist. He also came under immense pressure from his family and Lebanese emigrants. Nadim maintains that Gibril transcended the two pressures by creating a spiritual platform for himself.

All immigrants carry luggage, other than their suitcases, around with them, which is best offloaded if they wish to succeed in their new homeland. "Taboos that are dear to you aren't broken easily," says Nadim, admitting that it took him 15 years to get used to living in the larger world, away from his "family corner," when he left Jordan to embark on a theater career in England.

Nadim first caught a literal glimpse at the excitement of theater when as a boy he spied through a keyhole on a nativity play being performed in a Madaba Church;

Encouraged by his drama teacher at the Bishop's school and the liberal attitude of his family, he applied to and was accepted by the Rose Bruford Drama school in Sidcup Kent. There, acting for the first time with the opposite sex he felt strait-jacketed by his inhibitions. His first job in 1958 was as assistant stage manager at Bromley repertory theater.

He was thirsty for knowledge and experience and wanted to know everything about film making, writing and television production. He began getting small parts in major feature films, his first being a Spanish hotel manager in "A Touch of Class" with Glenda Jackson.

Since 1970 till the present day he has acted in three stage plays and two dozen

than idealistic and he accepts what work comes his way. "I would never let idealism prevent me from learning and gaining experience. American films and actors, he says, have taught him the art of film technique, of behaving naturally under the gaze of the "great big eye" and of projecting intensity without physical activity.

During the last 20 years

to all cross cultural marriages. "Relationships between men and women of different cultures can be exciting and constructive," he says "but should the balance tip either way through the aggressive narrow mindedness of one or both of the partners it can become pure hell."

Nadim began to make a thorough study of Gibril's character, reading around 40 American and Mid Eastern books about his life and critiques of his work. He found the American sources to be either unenthusiastic or over enthusiastic and generally failing to evaluate. Except for a thesis by Khalil Hawi, a professor of literary criticism at the AUB, which resisted satisfying the inclination towards myth; he could not find a single well-reasoned work from Middle Eastern scholars. Nadim's personal study of Gibril led him to his own conclusions about the man as a man and an artist. He considers Gibril's strength to be his innocence and naivety rather than his literary achievements. He also merits Gibril's dedication to inquiry into the arts and his delving into man's soul as remarkable.

These deductions are evident in the play which concentrates on Gibril the man rather than Gibril the poet which held greater sway in earlier drafts. Nadim found the workshop rehearsals here in Jordan very useful where he says he was reminded that Gibril was a Middle Eastern revolutionary rather than a Russian or North European one. Gibril was therefore more tolerant of the ills of society, which being tribal was less oppressive than its European counterparts. Gibril was a "protestant" in the original meaning of the word, dying outside the church; who went through two personal revolutions, one socio-political, the other spiritual. "Rest upon the Wind" is a treatise on Gibril's maturation in an alien environment, where the social prejudices of which he was fully aware, were counterbalanced by the nurturing love of his friend Mary Haskell.

Nadim returned home to England, with his script in early January where he hoped to work further on it, when he feels it's strong enough he will offer it to various people in America, England and Jordan for proper staging.

Nadim first began working on a play script about Gibril two years ago after working on a film with the English actor Ben Kingsley. Kingsley expressed an interest in Gibril the man and the poet and after several conversations Nadim committed himself to writing a play about the legendary writer. Being married to a foreigner himself he was fascinated by the relationship between Mary and Gibril and its parallels



Nadim Sawalha (right) with English actor Ben Kingsley.

the usual route trod by aspiring young actors. He was fired nine months later having no work permit. He then worked freelance for the BBC Arabic service and later became presenter of an "Around London" programme designed to introduce London to Arabic visitors. Nadim returned to Jordan in 1966 with a wife and small children to take part in the new theater movement that had begun under the direction of the late Abdul Hamid Sharaf. In 1970, he decided to return to England.

On his return Nadim off-loaded what he calls his "purist taboos" letting go of his belief that the industry owed him a privileged position. He worked in any and every media from radio, advertising television and film.

"I thought the rest of the world was trash and that I was the best" said Nadim and during this time he "discovered the rest of the world was, as good as I am."

films often handling major roles in such films as "Wind and the Lion" with Sean Connery and Candice Bergen, "Misunderstood" with Gene Hackman and "Half Moon Street" with Signe Weaver.

Like most actors in Britain, Nadim has been typecasted and the roles he is called on to perform are roughly 50 per cent Arab and 50 per cent the rest of the World (Greeks, Indians, Pakistanis, Turks, Spaniards, Latin Americans etc). Although Nadim tries to break out of the typecast when he can, he still relishes in the research involved in ethnic roles, the excursions into other cultures.

"The exterior actions and appearance of Arabs are dramatic and colourful food for writers" explains Nadim, who has often been cast as the bad guy and although such one dimensional perceptions lifted from the newspapers, can be wearisome to the actor.

Nadim's attitude to his profession is more pragmatic

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Amman, 8-14 February 1990

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## The added Worry

UNRWA Director promises  
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## King Hussein says ACC summit opens new opportunities for further achievements

AMMAN (Star) - His Majesty King Hussein has said that the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) summit which will be held in Amman on 24 February will open new opportunities for achieving further steps towards the fulfillment of the Council's objectives.

During a visit to the ACC headquarters in Amman on Tuesday, King Hussein said the ACC countries have based their action on solid ground and succeeded in accomplishing achievements that would lead to many gains for the peoples of the ACC member states. The King met with the Secretary-General of the ACC Dr Hilmi Nammar and discussed with him



preparation for the Amman ACC summit.

Expressing hope that the coming ACC summit will "enable us to review the recent developments in the Arab and international arenas, and to crystallise a unified position that would ben-

efit the whole Arab nation," the King said the new summit will witness new moves towards joint action and that the ACC countries will maintain the same course of action they followed last year. He was accompanied by Crown Prince Hassan.

## Engineers gear for elections

AMMAN (Star) - The regular annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Engineers Association scheduled to be held on Friday 9 February is likely to be postponed until 16 February.

Under the chairmanship of the Association's President Leith Shbeilat, the meeting will discuss the annual report of the Association's Council and will vote on its 1990 draft budget.

Meanwhile, preparations for the 22,600-member Association's Council elections have been completed as the deadline for candidates' registration ends today, Thursday.

Five engineers have been officially registered to contest election for the presidency of the Association which will be held on 23 February.

## On the record

By Ahmad Shaker

● His Majesty King Hussein will soon send a number of envoys to deliver messages to Arab leaders about the latest developments in the region and the dangers stemming from massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and to the occupied territories, as well as Yitzhak Shamir's recent statements about "grater Israel".

● The Foreign Ministry has asked its counterparts in the Arab Co-operation Council member states to start co-ordination about candidacy to vacant posts in Arab and world organisations and institutions, as well as voting for such posts. This includes the Arab League and world academic organisations.

● The Foreign Ministry instructed Jordanian ambassadors abroad to provide it with all information regarding Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. It also asked for co-ordinated effort by Arab ambassadors to clarify the dangers posed by this emigration.

● A Royal decree granting amnesty to political prisoners in the kingdom will be issued during the ACC summit which will be held in Amman on 24 February. The government will soon submit its recommendations on this issue to the King.

## Focus on Parliament

By Ahmad Al Husban

● The expected reshuffle in the cabinet of Prime Minister Mudar Badran will not lead to the joining of Muslim bloc deputies to the new government, according to members of the bloc.

Sources close to the House said that Speaker Sulaiman Arar was asked by the Prime Minister to conduct negotiations on the matter with the bloc members.

● Some members of the House will soon make an official request for amending the internal regulations of the Parliament. These deputies say that introducing amendments to the regulations have become a must in light of the new developments in Jordan's political and parliamentary lives.

● Muslim bloc sources have confirmed that Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant is still a member of the bloc but said that his membership is currently frozen as a "punishment" for his failure to comply with the decisions of the brotherhood.

● The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) has ratified the Arab Co-operation Council Charter.

# Efforts pooled to 'face lift' Zarqa Basin farms

By Tara Bradford  
Special to The Star

JERASH - Just a few years ago, the future of the Jordanian farm looked anything but bright. Beset by financial woes, many farmers were abandoning rural life for improved job prospects in Amman. Those who remained could barely grow enough food to feed their families, much less produce extra crops to profit in the marketplace.

Today, thanks to a co-operative effort undertaken by Jordanian, German and Australian organisations, some 12,000 farms in the Zarqa River Basin are receiving "face lifts." The changes are not merely cosmetic, with stone walls and terraces. Each farm receives an individual plan, designed to maximise its natural assets. The plan is particularly aimed at stemming soil erosion, thus contributing towards crop output for years to come.

The project, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, utilises talents of the Australian firm, SAGRIC International, in joint venture with Jouzy and Partners of Amman. The management consultancy of the project is contracted to the West German firm Agrar-Und Hydrotechnik (AHT).

Funding is provided by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, the Islamic Development Bank, the financial arm of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, other Arab donors and the Jordanian Government.

The project was initiated in March 1987, following a three-year feasibility study by GTZ of West Germany.

"This is the first project in this area where the principle concept is proper land use," noted Adnan Arafat, project director for the Ministry of Agriculture. "The project is very very important, because the government would like this area to be covered in green by 1993."

"It is social and cultural, as well as economic," Arafat commented. "One of our goals is to stop emigration from rural areas to cities. As a result of this project, many farmers are going back to their farms and are trying to work their land. By continually upgrading the farms, farmers can't help but increase their income and production," he said.

Arafat said he considers the project a unique example for other areas of Jordan. "It is the pilot programme from which we are learning about organisation and training," he remarked.

Australian Ambassador to Jordan Robert Bowker agreed with Arafat's assessment of the project's challenges. "To make the project work, it is important to come to grips with the social fabric, as much as the agricultural needs. I think the SAGRIC staff has adapted very well to the cultural environment," Bowker said. "They see that in order for their job to be effective, it requires a human quasi-political dimension to their thinking; that they become almost rural sociologists, not just technical advisors. To them it's all part of achieving the end result."

"The climatic conditions here



SAGRIC land use planner Jeff Palmer and Jordanian farmer Gasm Al-Hassan inspect a stone wall at the latter's farm

are comparable to those in South Australia," Bowker said. "We have experience in Australia with rain-fed agriculture, as well as problems with deforestation and over-grazing. I think the success rate of the project of Jordan thus far is very encouraging."

Feasibility study figures indicated 5,665 farms encompassing 699,000 dunums would make up the project's environs. However, land subdivision has resulted in more than twice the number of farms originally anticipated, said W.J. Davies, SAGRIC's team leader.

Despite the unexpected challenge of revamping 12,000 farms, Davies said he expects the project to meet its targeted completion date of 1993. "This has meant reconsideration of project policy, as to how to handle the large number of farms and a reassessment of targets," he remarked. "However, we are still expecting to meet the original target, although this may mean necessary rescheduling of resources and redesign of the project on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture."

"For us to make a plan for each farm, the down-time is the same for a small farm as for a large one," Davies explained. "We are doing more processing work than we ever expected."

Davies, who heads the consultancy while on leave from the South Australia Agriculture Commission, said there must be considerable flexibility and latitude with the project's style of operation. "The question is whether this consultancy is extended or not and provided the high cost per man can be met from within a very limited Jordanian budget," Davies noted. "The project must also further develop its planning and operations assistance."

"A February 18 deadline for contract renewal for the consultancy has been set. It would be very difficult for the Jordanians to continue the project on their own," said Wolfgang Haupt, team leader for the German management consultancy staff of six. "I do not expect any decision which would conclude that the Australians stop their activities, although I do expect rather a reduced staff," Haupt remarked. "The Australian involvement is still very important and will continue to be very important for

Development will tour the project area and compile inspection reports. "We have had good support from our Jordanian counterparts and from GTZ and AHT, and obviously we hope the project will be continued," said Australian Ambassador Bowker. "We look forward to these reviews and I am sure we will give very professional impressions."

"At the same time, we realise the budgetary constraints of the Jordanian government and the necessity of coping with priorities," Bowker remarked. "Clearly the Ministry of Agriculture has to consider budgetary problems. It is an expensive project. But it is one that we are proud to have been associated with these past few years. It has raised our profile in Jordan and certainly it is one that farmers themselves have supported."

"The basic ideas of the feasibility study are still valid," Haupt emphasised. The project was divided into three sub-projects developing private programmes for each farm; forest inventory and forestation; and river bank protection. "The planning began with an individual approach, but the project organisers are now changing the concept to one of block planning."

Continued on page 8

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## UNRWA's Jordan Director

## '...not a cut, but a re-allocation'

WHEN UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, was set up by the United Nations General Assembly in 1950, it was to give "short-term" help to the 750,000 Palestinian refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and the creation of Israel.

Forty years later UNRWA is moving away from direct relief to provide essential education and health services to more than 2.1 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. And as the political side of the issue has not been solved, UNRWA's short-term mandate is becoming a constant way of life.

In the view of Mr Ele J. Saaf, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, the relation his agency has with the refugees is "a sort of love-hate relationship." For the refugees UNRWA is a constant reminder of a debacle, while on the love side of it, the agency has helped "keep the Palestinian identity alive," says Mr Saaf, who believes that without UNRWA the refugees might have integrated with other societies.

Presently UNRWA is under attack from its own beneficiaries because of a management decision to do away with the mid-day meal, or the supplementary feeding programme, which serves about 9500 children in Jordan alone.

While Mr Saaf defends the decision to abolish this programme he assures the refugees that "this is not a cut but a re-allocation of funds into the more important health sector of UNRWA's services."

The mid-day meal programme began in the early fifties when UNRWA's role was mainly to provide rations and not services. Today the programme costs \$1.2 million in Jordan alone. "What some see as a cut, we see as a change in our priorities," says Mr Saaf.

"The priority is not in the mid-day meal programme, it is more in out-patient care and health centre... providing doctors, dentists and nurses..."

While health officers say latest surveys do not indicate the presence of a major nutritional problem in refugee camps, the director of the Jordanian operation admits that the service is "definitely" of some economic benefit to the families concerned.

"Food has probably a psychological impact which we may sometimes underestimate," Mr Saaf says. "But we think in terms of doctors and improvements in schools and the introduction of computers..."

The gradual phasing out of the mid-day meal programme has already started.

The first step excluded children whose ages are between 5 and 6, the second step, which will take place in the middle of the year will go one year down by excluding the 4-year-olds and the final step, by the end of the year, will cover the three-year-

*Mr Ele J. Saaf, director of UNRWA's affairs in Jordan believes the agency's role has moved from looking after the welfare of the Palestinian refugees to that of providing essential services. This is why he will abolish the mid-day meal programme this year which benefits 9500 children. But he promises an increasingly wary refugee population that this is not a cut and that the \$1.2 million in savings will go into health-related services. The Star Chief Editor Osama El-Sherif interviewed him in Amman this week.*

olds.

Mr Saaf sees no reason why the savings the agency will make from the phasing out of the supplementary feeding programme, should not be re-invested in other services especially the health sector which is currently "under heavy pressures as people are making more use of our health centres. Our services are free of charge... a doctor could be dealing with between 80 to 130 patients in a single working day."

And yet there are no guarantees that this money will actually be spent on health services in Jordan.

"I can't say if this money will go into hospitalisation costs in the West Bank and Gaza or if it will go to appoint a lab technician in the Jordan Valley," says the Dutch national UNRWA director.

According to Dr Abdul Salam Abu Awad, field health officer,

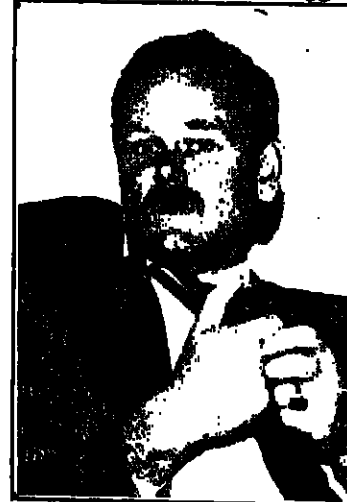
total budget. Currently about 6000 Palestinians work for UNRWA in Jordan, mostly as teachers. "UNRWA is no longer a welfare organisation," says Mr Saaf, "because it has developed together with the country." Jordan's UNRWA employs 4000 teachers working in 98 schools where about 134,000 students attend.

This has put added requirements on the quality of the services the agency provides each year. "Our mission has always been difficult because the services one considers necessary, one cannot always provide," says Mr Saaf who has run UNRWA's affairs in Jordan since 1982. "In this sense we are like any other government or welfare organisation."

But according to him no cuts in services has occurred in Jordan in the last seven to eight years. In terms of agency budget, he says, it has gone up over the

in its donation and this was reflected by a \$2 million cut in the Jordan operations budget. Sweden's \$5.5 million more than was expected share in the budget "might bring back a number of these cuts... but the focus is very much on the West Bank and Gaza Strip," says Mr Saaf.

While the US is the biggest



*"What some see as a cut, we see as a change in our priorities. The priority is not in the mid-day meal programme, it is more in out-patient care and health centre... providing doctors, dentists and nurses..."*



the health sectors's medical supplies budget amounts today to \$600,000 while two years ago it was no more than \$150,000. This is due to increasing demands by a growing population of refugees on health services. Today Jordan's estimated 900,000 Palestinian refugees make use of 19 medical centres around the country run by local medical staff.

And where in the beginning welfare accounted for more than 70 per cent of UNRWA's annual budget, today it takes less than 10 per cent while health sector's share is 18 per cent and the rest goes to the education sector, which is also under pressure.

This year's budget for Jordan is estimated at \$52 million which is two million less than expected. Out of this about \$36 million will pay for salaries accounting for 80 per cent of the

years, but so have the costs.

"Every year our expenditure goes up by a minimum of three per cent whether we decide anything or not," says Mr Saaf.

"In the education sector there are more kids... so automatically we need to have more teachers; we need to rent more buildings or construct them. Education is a bulk element... health too is a second bulk activity and it takes more staff, equipment and medicine."

And yet UNRWA has managed to improve its services by upgrading the quality of education and making "deliberate" improvements in the health sector by hiring more doctors, dentists and nurses.

As to funding, Mr Saaf says the general budget of UNRWA for 1990 was slashed by 11.7 per cent because of the American cut

single donor to UNRWA's annual budget, which is promised to it in a donor's meeting in the General Assembly every November, the European countries, Canada, Australia and Japan are assuming an important role in financing the agency.

The Arab countries funded less than seven per cent of UNRWA's budget before 1984 but now their contribution is less than three per cent. Saudi Arabia's donation, for example, amounts to \$1.2 million only.

While only four per cent of UNRWA's budget comes directly from the United Nations the rest comes in the form of voluntary contributions.

This means that the agency can never be sure of its future allocations. Mr Saaf is worried about cuts in US aid and hopes that something will happen to com-

pensate for the drop in donations or else. "It will hit us hard because like any other government we are tremendously labour intensive," he says.

He admits that "lack of trust" or "suspicion" exists between the agency and the refugees, but he says that this is because of a difference in perception. "In the recipients' point of view what is there should remain there forever and we should only add to it," says Mr Saaf.

The reason this suspicion exists in Dr Abu Awad's view is the mere passage of time. "The refugees do not see an imminent solution to their problems," he says. "This lack of trust is then directed towards the agency."

This is also due to problems in communication. When UNRWA decided to do away with the mid-day meal programme, it discussed the matter with the refugees but only "after the act." It has been discussed with the government and internally to the point we thought everybody would know about it," says Mr Saaf who first joined UNRWA in 1978.

After the decision was taken meetings were held between UNRWA management and refugee notables and the issue was explained. "The reaction we got on the medical issue was none... a complete silence. But when the discussions started they said a cut was a cut and we will never see it back," says Mr Saaf.

The usual means of communication are the schools and through the officers who act as a main channel of feedback. The Commissioner General meets with the refugee notables when he visits the area and explains the agency's decisions to them. "Sometimes there is mistrust but that is life," says Mr Saaf.

He believes that UNRWA is sometimes victimised by issues that are the "undercurrent."

"We have no political mandate, and we are here to provide assistance to Palestinian refugees and their descendants. And as long as there is no political solution to the issue of refugees, which in UN terms can come either through the right to return or compensation, UNRWA will continue to operate."

"Our existence is entirely in the hands of the General Assembly (Of the United Nations) and we are very much the result of a political situation."

For the businessman who worked for Philips electronics company for 12 years before joining UNRWA because of his love for Beirut the issues never change, but they grow bigger in size every year. "We are a practical outfit which operates in a political climate as well as it can," Mr Saaf says.

At the same time he knows that there is no escaping the political aspects of the refugee problem, at least this is what 2.1 million refugees know for a fact.

8 FEBRUARY 1990

By Ayman Al-Safadi  
Star Staff Writer

IN THIS sunny morning of the otherwise rainy January, the widow of Palestinian refugee Faleh Al Hindawi sits outside her house in Baqa refugee camp chatting with two of her female neighbours.

Around her, two of her seven children enjoy those scarce hours of warm weather by running back and forth the unshaded narrow alley that leads to their house which they share with two other families - each occupying one room.

Cracks creep through the exterior walls of the obviously un-maintained room which is simply, but neatly, organised to meet various domestic needs of the family. Five mattresses covered with black blankets are the only furniture in the multipurpose living room. In the day time, they are used as seats by the widow and her children while at night they are utilised as beds for the entire family.

Around two months ago, the dark-skinned, middle-aged refugee from Haifa used to spend this hour of the morning in one of the crowded food centres in which the United Nations Works and Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) used to provide mid-day meals for about 9500 children in Jordan's 10 refugee camps.

But now that UNRWA decided to cut the number of the beneficiaries of the supplementary feeding programme before totally abolishing it by the end of this year, none of the widow's sons and daughters are eligible for the programme.

"I guess there is nothing I can do about it," she says referring to her added worry, and the denial to her children of their "basic meal of the day."

Since her husband, the only bread earner in the family died a year and half ago this mother of seven lives on charity. Her children are among 3500 others who were affected by UNRWA's decision to exclude children over the age of six from the programme.

Six thousand more children will also lose "the only nutritious meal they get when the programme is phased out by the end of the year" according to the President of Al-Baqa Camp Services Committee Sheikh Ata Al Wahidi.

"In light of the worsening economic conditions and the price increases, refugees should be getting more and not less aid," says Al Wahidi, who charges that UNRWA is using every possible opportunity to cut the services it renders to the Palestinian refugees in order to eventually stop them completely. He cites as an example the shift in food rations from Jordan to Lebanon in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and says the refugees in Jordan did not object to this act out of humanitarian considerations, and because they believed their brethren in Lebanon needed the extra help."

But UNRWA went on in cutting the rations of refugees in Jordan until it finally



About 9500 Palestinian children will lose their "basic day meal" with the phasing out of the supplementary feeding programme.

## The added worry

Palestine refugees protest UNRWA's decision to cancel feeding programme

the whole programme. Only few extremely needy families in the camps in Jordan receive such aid now, he says.

"We completely reject the agency's claims that refugees in Jordan no longer need the food rations. UNRWA was founded by the United Nations General Assembly to provide welfare and work services to the Palestinian refugees until the Palestinian problem is solved. The problem is not solved and the agency should continue to shoulder its responsibilities as long as there

are refugees," he says.

Moreover, says Al Wahidi, the supplementary feeding programme is independently financed by donations from European Community (EC) countries and therefore the agency has no right in spending these donations on any other services.

Rejecting UNRWA's assurances that the money saved from the 40-year-old supplementary feeding programme will be used in upgrading other services in the camps, Al Wahidi says that "the health centres have wit-

nessed minor improvements only and there have been almost no changes in the education field."

He also rejects UNRWA's plans to channel the funds into the West Bank and Gaza saying that they have their own budget.

Instead of responding to financial problems by eliminating essential services to the refugees, UNRWA could reduce administrative expenses, according to Al Wahidi.

"What is the point of having the agency headquarters in Vien-

na and enduring the extra expenses while the refugees are in Jordan and other Arab countries?" Al Wahidi asks.

He says UNRWA could save huge amounts of money by moving its main offices to Jordan and making use of the facilities the Jordanian government offered it when it decided to move from Lebanon in 1982.

Also, according to Al Wahidi, the decision by UNRWA to abolish the supplementary feeding programme will lead to the loss of 137 working opportunities.

"The transfer of the 137 Palestinian refugees working in the food centres to other places in the agency, which UNRWA promises it will do, will mean that other 137 Palestinians will be denied these jobs," he says.

Angry people in the Baqa Camp lashed out at the decision to cut the mid-day meal programme but said they don't think the agency would go back on it.

Eleven notables from the camp have already met with the Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan and explained to him their point of view but that led to no avail, according to Al Wahidi.

"UNRWA took the decision in Vienna without consulting us and does not seem to want to listen to us even though we live in the camps and know more about their needs," he said.

He said that they have protested the matter to the Commissioner General of UNRWA and have sent letters explaining the issue to Prime Minister Mudar Badran and to the Lower House of Parliament.

"UNRWA's decision is a political one and is not a result of financial difficulties as the agency claims. The agency has made a habit of cutting its services to Palestinian refugees in Jordan and we will do every thing we can to stop these negative actions," he said.

## UNRWA - A fact sheet

The largest number of Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA (38 per cent of all registered refugees) live in Jordan. About 24.7 per cent of them live in 10 camps. In addition to the refugees and their descendants who arrived after the first Arab-Israeli conflict in 1948, about 150,000 registered refugees fled to Jordan at the time of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. And another 240,000 persons, displaced for the first time in 1967, were registered by the Jordanian government and may receive UNRWA services on the basis of a special annually renewed authorisation from the UN General Assembly.

Jordan field in figures:	
Total registered refugees (Sept. 1987)	852,746
Registered refugees in 10 camps (Sept. 1987)	216,358
Elementary and junior secondary schools	195
Children in UNRWA schools (1987-88)	134,600
Students places at Wadi Seer and Amman vocational/tender training centres (1987-88)	1,505
Students on UNRWA university scholarships	126
No. of Health Centres/Points	17
Registered special hardship cases (Dec. 87)	26,052
Women's Activities Centres	4
Sewing Centres	5
Community Centres for the Disabled	3
Daily Average Medical Consultations	2,875
UNRWA staff in Jordan (Dec. 1987)	5,384
Total 1988 budget (100%)	\$67.8m
Education budget (77.4%)	\$52.5m
Health budget (17.7%)	\$12.0m
Relief budget (4.9%)	\$3.3m

8 FEBRUARY 1990



# 'From the figurative to the abstract'

Three Jordanian artists put on a successful exhibition

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to The Star

AT THE Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery until the end of the month is an exhibition that would be well received wherever it was shown. Ranging from academic watercolours through collages loosely based on the human figure to totally abstract pieces, this diverse yet highly satisfying body of work has been produced by three local women artists - Alia Ammoura, Nabila Hilmi and Nawal Abdullah. Far from being distracting, the different approaches each of these artists take work surprisingly well together. As the paintings flow one into another along the walls of the hall, they trace the development of art from the figurative to the totally abstract and back again.

The figurative work at the exhibition comes from Alia Ammoura. In beautifully-executed watercolours, Ammoura has recorded four posterity scenes from the traditional Palestinian way of life, a way of life that is fast disappearing never to be seen again. With great and painstaking skill Ammoura has captured the women at work in the fields reaping the corn by hand, gathering vegetables from among thick green leaves and picking oranges in the citrus groves. In pale soft washes, she has caught the maze of walls of an old village while in other



Alia Ammoura records her own cultural background.

more detailed paintings she depicts the brightly coloured dresses of the bodouins of Jericho and the soft black texture of the cloth worn by the old woman of Sult whose hands and face are richly patterned with blue tattoos. All these paintings are exceptional in the way Ammoura has balanced her colours, each shade being echoed and repeated so that the compositions hang together as a coherent whole. It is in her portrayal of traditional pottery that Ammoura's complete facility with her media comes to the fore. In these four pieces, one can almost feel the roundness and texture of the old vessels. It must be said however

that the backgrounds to these paintings, while immaculately rendered, have the effect of detracting from rather than enhancing the still life arrangements in front of them.

With these paintings Ammoura has achieved what she set out to do - to record her own cultural background and to prove that she is an artist of great technical ability, things she felt to be, and indeed are, important. In doing so she has however lost some of the vitality and emotion that was the hallmark of her earlier landscape work. Having worked this idea through to its conclusion, Ammoura can perhaps now recapture that aspect of her work,

enhancing it with her not inconsiderable technical expertise.

Following on from the work of Ammoura and linking it with the abstract paintings of Nawal Abdullah is the work of Nabila Hilmi. What this highly creative artist constantly strives to capture in her work are those fleeting moments in everyday life that express some deep and inner emotion. The basis of her work are rapid drawings of the human figure in positions of rest and repose, in completely natural off-guarded poses of introspection. Sometimes Hilmi conveys the feelings she wants to capture with a startling minimalism - nothing more than a few strokes of a brush dipped in black ink. In others the feelings captured in spidery thin lines of pen and ink are enhanced by the interiors in which the figures are set and with luminous washes of watercolours and small pieces of paper roughly torn out of magazines. These latter are so carefully, sparingly and thoughtfully applied that the viewer is almost unaware of them, so thoroughly do they consolidate and balance the composition. Thus immaculately crafted, Hilmi's images have the unique ability to change from the figurative to the abstract and back again so that they constantly entice and intrigue.

This chameleon-like quality of Hilmi's collages is also captured in her larger oils which at one moment look like seated fig-

ures in a softly-lit room and at another become a gently following pattern of rich glowing colours.

Completing the exhibition are the bold, dark abstracts of Nawal Abdullah. In this coherent series of beautifully-worked gouaches, Abdullah has broken out of her former more formal grids. The black lines which once held her deep rich colours at bay have exploded. Now like splinters of glass they rush away from the point of impact with shattering dynamism releasing colours from the inner depths of the painting. Luminous and condensed, these colours glow through Abdullah's work like sunlight on a dusty pane.

When looking at Abdullah's work a string of images spring to mind. At one and the same time they are the stained glass windows of a Gothic cathedral, they are Alice's first tentative steps through the looking glass, they are the reflections shining off a broken mirror and they are the threads of a frayed tweed coat seen under the microscope. Although they exude an air of extreme spontaneity these abstracts are in fact built up, layer upon careful layer. The end result of this painstaking work are volatile abstracts rich in matt colours full of light that allow the imagination to wander freely through their depths.

The exhibition runs until February 28th.

## A week-long festival of European cinema

From Greece to Holland

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to The Star

STARTING SATURDAY, 10 February is the now established and popular European Film Festival. Every night over the next week recent feature films from different European countries will be screened for the public free of charge. Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, this Third European Film Festival, is, as Christian Falkowski, head of Delegation of the Commission of the European countries in Amman says "an expression of the close cultural ties between Europe and Jordan."

In keeping with the tradition set at the last two European film festivals, the films being shown this year promise to be among some of the best made in Europe over the past four years. The week starts with the noted Italian director, Ermanno Olmi's 1987 film, "Lunga Vita Alla Signora" - Long Live the Lady. This comedy relates the events that happen over the course of one evening to a 16-year-old student of a hotel management school and his friends when they help out as waiters at a grand gala dinner. Disenchanted and disillusioned by the whole affair, the hero finally escapes before dawn to run out across the fields in an unconscious desire "to prolong the dreamy, magical days of childhood."

The winner of many prestigious film awards including the Palm d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, Olmi is a director who tries to analyse "the daily reality of common situations lived by common men with all the contradictions and anxieties of industrial civilisation." Olmi has been hailed as "a new and very worthy maestro of the humanistic cinema."

On Sunday, 11 February, Luc Besson's marvellous movie "Le Grand Bleu" will be screened. This beautifully-shot, unique and compelling film tells of the struggle of two men as they try to push back the limits of human endurance beyond all conception. As children, in Sicily, Jacques and Enzo competed against each other to see how deep they could dive. But after

Jacques' father was killed while diving to collect sponges, the two become separated, only to meet again many years later at the World Championships for free diving. Enzo, the holder of the world record for the deepest dive without any breathing equipment, knows Jacques is perhaps the one man who can beat him. After several playful

Film Festival is Andrew Grieve's adaptation of Bruce Chatwin's wonderful novel "On the Black Hill." The film tells the gentle story of the life of Lewis and Benjamin Jones - identical twins - as they grow up and grow old on a Welsh mountain farm. Despite several attempts by Lewis, the more adventurous and independent of the two, to break

struggles to fight against her love for him in order to remain faithful to the man she does not love but to whom she owes respect and gratitude. This delicate and tender film has been hailed for the excellent performances of its cast.

From the Federal Republic of Germany comes Erwin Keusch's film "The Pilot." The hero, Bernd

birthday during which he meets Elena. But after the festivities and his affairs with Elena are over, Christos realises that instead of solving his problems he has only postponed facing them.

On 16 February there will be a chance to see the much acclaimed Spanish film "El Amor Brujo," Bewitched Love. This passionate gypsy love story which is full of magic, ancient lore and mystery is told mostly through the form of wild and dramatic dancing. Although Jose loves a beautiful gypsy girl called Lucia, he is compelled by parental wishes and ancient Roman rites to marry Candela who in turn is loved by Carmelo. After a party during which he has run off with Lucia, Jose is stabbed to death. Carmelo is unjustly accused of his murder. After 40 years in prison Carmelo returns to look for Candela who has, during his absence, lost her mind. In an attempt to drive away the ghost of Jose who stands between them, they persuade, on the advice of a witch, Lucia to join them in witnessing the appearance of Jose's ghost. After a final impassioned dance Lucia disappears into the night with Jose, leaving Candela and Carmelo free at last.

Bringing the film week to a close is the contribution from the Netherlands "looking for Eileen." After the death of his girlfriend in a car accident, Philip meets Eileen who is the spitting image of his dead friend. But no sooner has he gotten to know her than she disappears. His fruitless searches for her bring him into contact with Marc, Eileen's husband. Together they search for and find Eileen and her daughter Ginny. After an altercation over the custody of Ginny, Philip knocks Marc down and Eileen again manages to disappear. Two years later Philip finds Eileen who now works as a nurse-maid when he at last comprehends that she is not his lost girlfriend but a different woman in her own right.

All the films are being screened at the Philadelphia Cinema in Jabal Amman in their original language with subtitles in English. Tickets are available on a first come first served basis. Performances begin at 8 p.m.



"Le Grand Bleu", by French director Luc Besson: A classic of its own kind where two men try to push back the limits of human endurance

challenges including an attempt to drink a bottle of champagne together at the bottom of a swimming pool, the competition begins in earnest - a competition in which nothing else counts not even death itself. The film explores the relationship between the two men, between Jacques and the woman who loves him, delightfully played by Rosanna Arquette, and between Jacques and his passion for the "Big Blue" and the dolphins who make this other universe their home. The evocative musical score and economy of dialogue make this French film a classic of its kind.

The British contribution to the

away, the twins inevitably come back together time and again, being all that the other really needs. After perhaps the most exciting event in their lives - a trip in an aeroplane over their beloved farm to celebrate their joint 85th birthday, the twins are only truly separated for the first time in their long lives by death.

On Tuesday, 13 February is the Belgium film "Sailors Don't Cry." Directed by Marc Didden, this film tells the story of Hilda who after being abandoned by her first much loved husband marries Guy, an honest man who takes care of her, the problems start when Paul, her first husband, returns and Hilda

Klinger, dreams that one day he will hang glide in Bolivia across jungles from which, if anything were to go wrong, there would be no rescue. Suddenly, his dream comes true thanks to a local journalist who by extensive coverage of his plans raises the funds he needs. Klinger now finds he has to pursue his project whether he likes it or not...

The Greek contribution to the film week is Takis Papayannidis movie "Birthday Town." Christos, a businessman returns to his home town in order to try and find a solution to his problems. While he is there he becomes immersed in the town's preparation to celebrate the city's 2,300th

## Arabic music hits the airwaves

By Ceri Lloyd Jones  
Special to The Star

ARABIC MUSIC has been the focus of specialist debate here in Amman throughout the entire week. Broadly speaking, two complementary perspectives were brought to bear on the topic - the local perspective of the Arab Academy of Music (AAM) and the global perspective of UNESCO's International Music Council (IMC). They share the same aim: the promotion of Arabic music.

UNESCO's IMC is attempting to play down the "Eurocentric" bias prevalent in Western music appreciation and aims to increase awareness of lesser known musics of the world. A

virile partner in disseminating Arab music, its masterstroke was in recognising the potency of the airwaves for getting to a mass audience, with the facility to reach new listeners and not just the already converted lovers of Arabic music.

The means was a competition, or rostrum, where each Arab League member country was invited to submit a recording of musical material lasting up to 60 minutes. These were judged on authenticity of style, the artistic standard of the music and performance, and on the quality of production. Similar Rostra have already taken place in Asia, Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean. The main spin-off of the Arab Rostrum is that each

country's entry, winner or not, will be available to other broadcasting organisations worldwide in the hope that Arabic music will receive increased radio coverage.

Preserving traditional music has been amongst the top priorities of the AAM. UNESCO has also begun to present traditional Arabic music on cassette and C.D., with the co-operation of Arab broadcasting stations.

The Palestinian delegate to the Rostrum, composer Youssef Khasho, feels, however that emphasising the traditional music rather than compositions in a more rehearsed and polished style - aims to which Western recordings aspire - actually harms the image of Arabic music. He

feels that ethnic and colourful recordings emphasise the primitive characteristics of Arabic music and that the future of Arabic music lies in an assimilation of Western techniques like the enhancement of a melody by harmonic accompaniment. Traditional Arabic music is played in unison - all the instruments play the same melody.

Mr Jabir Ali Ahmed, the Yemeni delegate, disagrees. He feels that traditional Arabic music should not be set to harmony as this ruins the emotional effect of a particular "maqam" (scale). Jordanian composer and pianist Patrick Lama does not use Arabic melodies wholesale in his compositions. Like Bartok, he sets out to give his music a con-

temporary flavor whilst bringing out Arabic characteristics such as the short phrases and melodic embellishments.

### Jordanian musicians on display

Jordan, as the host country of the Rostrum provided concerts of serious music. Local groups put on very creditable performances, whilst the National Music Conservatory under the Noor al Hussein Foundation provided administration. The Army Symphony Orchestra gave the first concert on Saturday evening under the baton of Major Jabir Ahmad. The opening bars of Vm

Continued on page 19

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# The rise of AIDS in women and children

The number of women developing AIDS is growing rapidly - in some regions of the world there is an equal or larger ratio of women to men afflicted with the disease. And the prediction is for numbers to increase in the 1990s and in turn increase the number of affected babies.

By Maggie James  
Special to The Star

LONDON - The statistics relating to AIDS cases in the 1980s make depressing reading. During that decade, more than five million people were infected with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), about 600,000 people developed AIDS (acquire immune deficiency) and more than 300,000 people worldwide died of the disease.

Dr Jonathan Mann, director of the Global Programme of AIDS of the World Health Organisation (WHO), points out: "Although there has been an unprecedented global response and intensive research for a drug cure has produced the first useful drugs and steps towards a vaccine, there is no call for complacency." The WHO believes that the struggle with AIDS during the 1990s will be much more difficult than during the 1980s.

An international conference held in Paris in November 1989, organised by the WHO and the French government, was con-

vened to discuss the implications of AIDS for mothers and children. The WHO estimates that of the six million people reported to be infected with HIV, and who eventually are likely to contract AIDS, about one-third are women. From 20 to 40 per cent of their children will be born with HIV infection.

"The point is that, quite simply, in relative terms, AIDS is becoming an increasing problem among women," says Dr Mann. "In the world, health and more broadly social policy is being made by men for men," he said. "When you look at the gap between the rhetoric about the importance of children and the sanctity of motherhood and compare that with the resources given to the health of mothers and children you really come to the conclusion that their health concerns are of a lower priority worldwide, and AIDS is no exception."

A dossier published recently by the Panos Institute in association with Save the Children focuses on the risk to children. Entitled "AIDS & Children: A Family Disease", the report admits that no one can put an exact figure on the number of children worldwide infected with HIV. This is because it is difficult to identify infected children. HIV-infected children can have many non-specific symptoms, including failure to thrive, persistent oral candidiasis (a fungal mouth infection known as thrush), chronic diarrhoea, and generalised lymphadenopathy (swollen glands). In developing countries, HIV-infected children have

symptoms common to many diseases, which can be observed in ill children who are not HIV-positive.

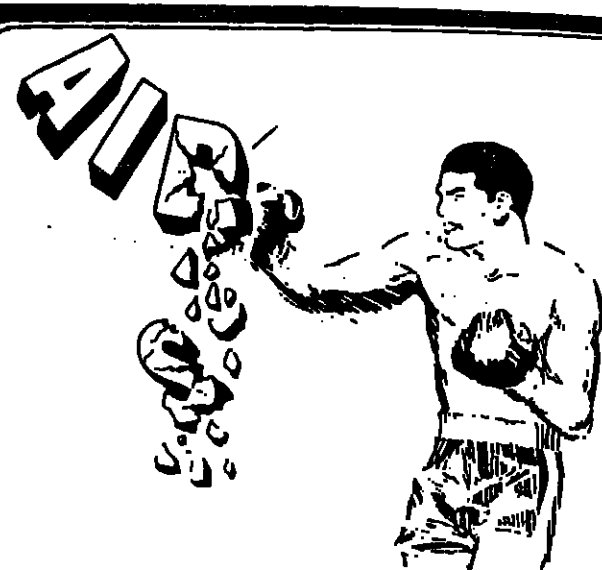
The WHO projects that a quarter of a million infants in sub-Saharan Africa will have been infected with HIV from their mothers by 1992. This, they say, is a conservative estimate. Quite apart from mother-to-child transmission, children have been infected with HIV from transfusions of unscreened blood, particularly in developing countries. Children with haemophilia in the West have been infected from tainted blood products given to them. In the USSR, where to be an AIDS victim is to be an outcast, children have contracted AIDS from inadequately sterilised needles when given injections.

The Panos report points out that developing countries with fragile and overextended health care services battling diseases on many fronts are straining to cope with the long-term, multiple needs of children with AIDS and their families. In Uganda, where the disease is rife and women with AIDS are often abandoned by their husbands even though the man may have infected the woman, there are thought to be about 15,000 healthy children orphaned by AIDS - and the number is growing.

But it is not just undeveloped or Third World countries which are affected. It is estimated that in New York City 75,000-85,000 uninfected children will be orphaned when their parents die of AIDS in the 1990s.

Jonathan Mann warns that if complacency, indifference and denial lead to relaxation of efforts or to a decrease in commitment to fighting AIDS, we will fall further behind the pace of the epidemic. In the 1980s, with rec-

ognition of the global scope of the problem, the disease was feared to be an uncontrolled epidemic. "Either we build upon and strengthen what has been accomplished," says Dr Mann, "or the fears of the 1980s may become a tragic reality."



## BE A HERO AND GUARD AGAINST AIDS

## Efforts pooled to 'face lift' Zarqa Basin farms

Continued from page 3

said Haupt.

"If it works out as we think, it would mean land-use planning achievements in terms of increasing farmer recruitment," Haupt added. Block planning would mean better rationale of staff time and would enable the project to cover larger areas, Davies said.

Basically the project seeks to slow erosion, stabilise crop production and protect production potential. Reducing siltation into the already polluted King Talal Dam is another important factor prompting the project's conception and implementation.

Each farmer in one of six watershed management units in the Zarqa River Basin is contacted by Ministry of Agriculture extension officers and is invited to participate in the project. After completing a questionnaire profiling current farming activities, the farmer shows proof of title and deed to the land. He then signs Farm Agreement number 1, allowing SAGRIC to go onto the farm, take measurements and conduct soil surveys. The latter determines soil series, slope, depth of soil and the amount of rocks and stones blanketing the surface.

Next, a land use planner walks over the farm to determine the best application of the land. He

compiles a list of all structures such as stone walls or Gradoni terraces, that must be built. Tenders are then let for construction of these items. At this stage, some costs are incurred by the farmer.

Ian Brooke, one of three Australian land use planners associated with the project, has written a computer programme outlining land capability.

Brooke, on leave from the New South Wales Soil Conservation Service, said each farm is designed according to what will

best adapt to the land's capability, whether orchard, annual crops or range crops. Farms vary in size from four dunums to 1,200 dunums (owned by eight people), with the average farm encompassing 50 dunums, Brooke said.

Most Jordanian extension agents have agricultural engineering degrees from a local university. The feasibility study envisioned that each officer would be directly responsible for about 80 farmers; sub-division increases that number to 300. "This is

too much for one person to keep track of," Brooke said. "It's difficult for any one extension agent to be aware of individual needs of 300 farmers."

Adnan Arafat acknowledged the problem. "We now have 20 extension agents working full-time. We need 33, but Ministry of Agriculture budget problems have restricted additional hiring."

**"It is the first time we have used the system of extension agents actively approaching farmers, instead of waiting for the farmers to come to the ministry asking for advice."**

Arafat is enthusiastic about the extension officer's tasks. "It is the first time we have used the system of extension agents actively approaching farmers, instead of waiting for the farmers to come to the ministry asking for advice. These new graduates have fresh ideas and will help the project achieve success," he added.

Success of the programme depends primarily upon the farmer accepting the idea, noted Yaser Mhawesh of Irbid, an extension officer. He said most farmers

gradually accept project stipulations because "everyone wants to increase their production and their income." Others refuse to participate for such diverse reasons as worrying that the government will take over their lands, or not wishing to comply with measures recommended to improve the farms, said Mhawesh. "Sometimes more than 20 farmers own one plot and some will

agree to take part, while others refuse," Mhawesh added.

Abdullah Shehshani of Amman, also an extension officer, said careful monitoring of work on each farm is necessary to ensure that project guidelines are properly followed.

One farm family in the village of Qameiba is especially pleased with the project. Gasim Mohammed Al-Hasan has lived in the same area nearly 50 years and tilled two farms. Al-Hasan, aided by other family members, is a full-time farmer. When approached by extension officers about participating in the project, Al-Hasan agreed his farming operation needed changes. However, he was apprehensive about

costs necessary to impose such improvements.

Now Al-Hasan and his family seem pleased with the project, while realising that some time must elapse before results are apparent to all but the most trained eyes. Al-Hasan said he thinks future harvest and financial compensation will vastly increase as consequences of the project.

One of Al-Hasan's farms is planted with a demonstration crop of vetch and barley. "We hope the farmer will use it for hay, since this area is surrounded by wheat," said Jeff Palmer, a SAGRIC land use planner, also on leave from the New South Wales Soil Conservation Service. "We hope other farmers in the village will see the success of this plot and follow suit," Palmer added.

The SAGRIC staff has ventured slightly outside the realm of their contract by voluntarily arranging village meetings, in which area farmers are encouraged to meet the project director and other personnel and express their views or ask questions about the project. "Mostly they ask us for fences, roads and boundary walls," Palmer noted. "The project also plans to plant shrubs, such as a triplex for grazing, to dissuade sheep and goats from eating crops."

# ECONOMY

The Star

## Khouri calls for converting Jordan's debt into equity

AMMAN (Star) - Mr Zuhair Khouri, Chairman of the Board and Director General of the Housing Bank, has told The Star that the recent decision by the Arab Banking Corp. (ABC) to move into the Jordanian market was due "to its (ABC's) confidence in the Jordanian economy." He said that ABC's 60 per cent share in the ABC bank of Jordan was financed through a debt for equity swap, the first to be done in Jordan at such a large scale. Mr Khouri called upon Jordanian institutions to "unify their efforts toward converting all of Jordan's debt into equity."



Mr Zuhair Khouri

Following is the full text of the interview:

Q: The Arab Banking Corp. (ABC) has chosen Jordan to be the first Arab country in which a bank affiliated with ABC is established. How important is this move by ABC?

A: As Mr Abdullah Al-Saudi, President and Chief Executive Officer of ABC, recently told the press, ABC concentrated on expansion in the traditional markets of Europe, North America and the Far East during its first decade of operations, but now, and as part of their long term strategy, they are concentrating on applying the expertise they have developed from their international operations to the Arab World in order to develop Arab economic integration.

The reason ABC selected Jordan to be the first Arab country to establish an affiliate in, was due to its confidence in the Jordanian economy. The atmosphere of political and economic stability that Jordan is enjoying, and which is a result of His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership, has encouraged ABC to make this move and I hope it will encourage other Arab institutions to follow suit.

Q: ABC holds 60 per cent of the new bank, how was its share financed?

A: ABC's share in the new bank was financed by what is called a Debt for Equity Swap. This is a process in which part of a loan extended to a country is transformed (or swapped) into an investment in the equity of a corporation within that country. It is noteworthy to mention that the debt for equity swap has become a global trend with respect to developing countries' debts. ABC's confidence in the Jordanian financial institutions, gave it the incentive to accept the debt for equity swap.

In addition, this debt was swapped at its par value and without any discount. In this way, ABC was able to convert a fixed income loan into a promising investment with potential for unlimited income generation. On the other hand, Jordan will reduce the amount of its foreign currency debt and simultaneously relieve some of its foreign debt burden. Furthermore, I would urge all Jordanian financial institutions to unify their efforts toward converting all of Jordan's debt into equity.

Q: Why has ABC chosen the Housing Bank as its Jordanian counterpart and how will this choice reflect on your bank's local, regional and international standings?

A: As for the first half of your question, I cannot speak for the management of ABC, but I can again refer to recent statements made to the press by Mr Abdullah Al-Saudi who said that their decision was based on the fact that the Housing Bank is one of the leading financial institutions in this country. Mr Al-Saudi also expressed confidence in the Jordanian economy and clarified that the current economic difficulties in Jordan are only a "passing cloud."

Moving to the second half of your question, I think that the Housing Bank will benefit in many ways from this new partnership. We will have access to the services of a major financial institution which has branches and subsidiaries all over the world, the potential for such be-

nef is great and we intend to take advantage of all opportunities that may arise from this relationship.

Q: What will the main activities of the new bank be? Will there be a conflict of interest between the new bank and the Housing Bank?

A: ABC-Jordan is a licensed commercial bank which operates like any other commercial bank in Jordan. There is no conflict of interest between ABC-Jordan and the Housing Bank because the Housing Bank is a specialised credit institution concentrating on housing related activities, whereas ABC-Jordan is a commercial bank.

Q: How do you see the future of the banking sector in Jordan in the coming few years and what is your comment on the decision to float interest rates?

A: It is well known that the Central Bank helped Jordan to overcome the recent economic difficulties by implementing the suitable monetary policies and by partially reorganising the banking sector through the merger of certain commercial and investment bank. These measures restored confidence in both the Jordanian economy and currency and allowed the banking sector to regain its confidence and pursue its original goals. Accordingly, I think that we shall witness a better future.

The decision to float interest rates is quite important. It will encourage the citizens to save and cut down on consumption. A higher interest rate will encourage the citizens to keep their funds in dinars instead of speculating in foreign currencies. This

will also encourage Jordanian expatriates to relocate their savings in Jordan and in the Jordanian dinar. Due to this float, the market forces (i.e. supply and demand) will be the determining factor in setting the level of interest rates.

I am well aware that the float may generate some negative effects, but I am confident that the monetary authorities in the Kingdom will be able to cope with these effects and will find suitable solutions to such effects whenever they arise.

Q: Will the government's decision to cancel interest on housing loans cover your bank's extension of housing loans?

A: No. This decision will not affect the loans extended by the Housing Bank. It only applies to government institutions which build and sell homes, such as the Housing Corporation and the Urban Development Department, whereas the Housing Bank's role is confined to the finance of housing.

I would like to point out that last year the Housing Bank, of its own accord, reduced the interest rates on housing loans. Low and medium income groups were the ones to benefit most from this reduction. The Bank aimed at easing some of the burden carried by low-income borrowers to enable them to acquire homes within the range of their real needs and financial abilities.

It is well known that the Bank assumes a social role by financing loans to the Housing Corporation and the Urban Development Department at heavily subsidised interest rates because these institutions provide housing projects to accommodate low and medium income groups.

## Al Qadi does not expect major changes in interest rates

AMMAN (Star) - The General Director of the Jordan Arab Investment Bank, Mr Abdel Qader Al Qadi, does not expect important changes in interest rates offered by commercial banks in the immediate future. Mr Al Qadi was commenting on the recent Central Bank decision to float interest rates from the beginning of this month in accordance with the economic adjustment programme and Jordan's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said he does not expect major fluctuations in interest rates on deposits or credits since "confidence has been restored to the Jordanian dinar." According to Mr Al Qadi, who supports the Central Bank decision, the floatation was "a step in the right direction." He said until the present liquidity in dinars has been absorbed, supply and demand forces and competition among the banks will keep interest rates at roughly their present values. But after that demand on deposits may rise forcing banks to increase their interest rates, which will affect borrowers. This, he added, could lead to increases in commodity prices and may affect the present rate of unemployment and the buying power of consumers.

Mr Al Qadi said "strong banks" will not have to adjust their current rates and therefore no "substantial change" will occur. He added that the influence of the black market has been curtailed because of the recent adjustments to the exchange rates. "The exchange rates will be stable for the time being," he said.

## Rising wholesale prices cause September index to surge

AMMAN (Star) - Wholesale commodity prices in Jordan jumped to their highest record in 1989. The Amman wholesale price general index surged by 75 per cent during the first three quarters of 1989 compared with the same period in the previous year.

Major increases were reported in transport equipment, wood, paper and cardboard, and durable consumer goods. These four commodities are permanent items on Jordan's annual import bill.

A number of wholesale traders in the downtown Amman area are not convinced that falling world commodity prices will reflect positively on domestic wholesale prices in Jordan. They argue that during the last quarter of 1989, world commodity prices increased by over 16 per cent, due to a significant increase in US production costs. They say falling world commodity prices in January of 1990 indicate that the rest of 1990 will witness a gradual increase in commodity prices. For them, current world prices of crude oil, steel, cereals and fertilisers indicate the year 1990 will be a tough one.

Official statistics available on the Amman wholesale price index, which use the year 1979 as a base year (100), show a general index of 152.8 in 1988. Compared with 1985, 1986 and 1987, the 1988 general index rose by 105 per cent, 10.4 per cent, and 9.5 per cent respectively.

Comparative statistics, for 1988 over 1987, indicate major increases in durable consumer goods (by 23 per cent), construction materials (by 22 per cent), wood (by 19 per cent) and trans-

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Euro-deposit rates:					
	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	8.1/4	7.15/16	15.3/32	6.68	9.9/16
2 mos.	8.5/16	8.1/16	15.1/8	7.05	9.9/16
3 mos.	8.5/16	8.3/16	15.1/8	7.15	9.9/16
6 mos.	8.3/8	8.13/32	15.1/8	7.175	9.7/16
1 year	8.5/8	8.5/8	15.1/16	7.31	9.3/8

Interbank rates (Jordan):  
Savings accounts 7%, Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.5%, 1 months 9%, 2 months 9.125%, 3 months 9.25%, 1 year 9.5%. Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:

DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST 1.6395/05	1.4735/45	1.6995/05	144.80/85	1.1870/75	5.6390/20

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

## Rule-of-thumb

## Measures and Standard Units

THE STANDARDS and Measures Law (Provisional 16/1989) defined the "Measures" as the technical machinery, tools and equipment used in measuring and include both direct measures (of length, capacity and weight) and indirect measures. "Standard Measuring Units" are defined as the international standard units used in measuring. The Law empowered the Department of Standards and Measures with the authority to unify and develop measuring methods, as well as verify and inspect the "Measures". The Department is also entrusted with adopting a national measuring system, as well as monitoring its application.

The Department is responsible for ensuring that only those "Standard Measuring Units", approved in the kingdom, are used. It is also responsible for adopting the national main measuring references according to which "Measures" are verified and inspected for the official seal or stamp.

The penalties section of the Law includes the following actions: Illegal making or selling of "Measures". Using, or possessing with an attempt to use, "Measures" not stamped by the Directorate. Preventing an official, deputizing for the Directorate, from seizing or inspecting illegal "Measures". Refusing to permit entry to an official to carry out his inspection and oversight duties.

The law is firm on two major elements. First, illegal "Measures" seized by the inspector should be confiscated. Second, forging a seal or a stamp used by the directorate is treated as a criminal fraud.

## Matchmaking

J.M. Box 33600, St. Paul, MN 55133-3600 USA.  
- Direct Digital Colour Proofing (DDCP) system.  
- Colour Electronic Pageination Systems (CEPS).  
- Developing processing electronics and software for overall process control, text and graphics integration, file management systems, and interfaces to all brands of CEPS.  
- The company is designing and integrating the 3M DDCP system based on its matchprint colour proofing and digital imaging expertise.  
- 3 M plans to introduce the DDCP system at DRUPA 90 in Dusseldorf, W. Germany.

This free-of-charge service is available to local and foreign businessmen. To publish your commercial interests in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

## Made-in-Jordan

ONE YEAR has passed since the establishment of the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), and it already has 30 members and a long list of accomplishments to show for its hard work.

Stocked with data basis, directories, promotion contacts and tender information, JTA feels that it has given its members and anyone who cares to use its facilities the "raw material" to work with in order to create or expand their markets. The JTA is embarking on two projects during 1990 in an attempt to promote Jordanian-made products. The first, in May, is a planned display of Jordanian products for Asian importers and exporters from Indonesia and several neigh-

bouring countries. Importers from several other Asian countries will also be expected to inspect the Jordanian goods while they are on display in Indonesia.

The other planned trade promotion activity will be a visit by U.S. importers who are expected to come to Jordan in the first half of 1990 to identify Jordanian products which they believe could be suited for the U.S. market. The activity is being planned in co-operation with Private Services Development Project (PSDP).

For more information please contact Jordan Trade Association (JTA), P.O. Box 830432, Amman-Jordan. Tel.: 685603.

## Gold &amp; Silver

Gold	JD
1 kg	8,900.000
21 ct	7.750
18 ct	6.650
Eng. pound	
8g	64.000
Rashad:	
7g	56.000
24ct (swiss)	9.750
Silver	
1 kg	160.000

## Money Matters

## Average exchange rates on 25/1/1990 in Jds

Official:	(File)
US	662.0
Pound	1,114.6
DEM.	394.5
SWF.	444.4
FRF.	116.1
Yen (100)	457.3
Parallel	
US	672.5
Pound	1,135.8
DEM.	409.9
SWF.	455.7
FRF.	118.7
Yen (100)	448.2

## Consumer Watch

## Making choices

The Supply Law protected the consumer by enforcing a requirement on traders "to comply with a set of 'qualitative grading and classification' designed for staple food items, or other food items and all other consumer commodity items." Regardless of this legal provision, each one of us, as consumers, should be able to verify and identify different brands for one commodity line. Eventually the price of each brand should differ based on the quality of the commodity. Trial and error should not result in frustrating the consumer, provided that the consumer defines his priorities and preferences based on income level, frequency and taste.

The star took a walk around the downtown market in order to come up with a common criterion, or what may be called the choice scale. The result was negative. Most consumers, about 94% in an 18-consumer survey, preferred to purchase the same brand they are used to get every time there is a need for it. Seven commodities were chosen, all of them were basic household items (toiletries, detergents, kitchen supplies, bathroom supplies, etc.). These seven commodities, chosen randomly, included only four items (57%) which suit a qualitative grading and classification practice.

The 17 consumers (96% of 18) did not care for the different brands available for the four household commodities. Who is responsible? We cannot blame the trader. We, consumers, should blame ourselves for not getting ourselves accustomed to making choices. The five store owners, surveyed by the star, agreed that "If the consumer keeps on pressing a demand for trying other brands, traders will automatically respond in order to maintain at least a market share."

## Contracts &amp; Contacts

TN: 546/89. Wheel bulldozer weighting 5 tons for the Fertiliser Industry Complex in Aqaba. Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. CD: 20/2/1990. TD: JD 10.

TN: 10/90. Bolts, nuts and bars. Arab Potash Co. CD: 10/2/1990. TD: JD 25.

TN: 48/90. Medicine. Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. CD: 13/2/1990. TD: JD 25.

TN: 16/90. Oil improvement agents, 17/90. Break fluid components. Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. CD: 4/3/1990. TD: JD 5 each.

Equipment and machinery available for sale. National Projects and Investment Co. Tel. 793371.

Batteries (Sulphuric Acid Conc. 98.5 per cent) available for sale. Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Price: JD 70/ton.

TN: A/1/90. Asphalt Mix. A/2/90. Barza-Zibun Road. Capital Governorate/Works Directorate. CD: 13/2/1990. TD: JD 10 each.

Electrical mixers (3 phas 220v) and other equipment available for sale. Ministry of public works and housing. CD: 11/2/1990.

TN: 2/90. 100 tons titanium dioxide. Agricultural, Trading and Industrial Co. Intaj. CD: 24/2/1990. TD: JD 15.

TN: SJ/3/90/TF. Bicycles and their tires and tubes Royal Airforce. CD: 11/2/1990.

Supply of 4000 tons of photocopying papers. Armed Forces/Purchases Directorate. CD: 25/2/1990.

TN: 1 sales/90. Sale of wood, copper and steel cables, scrap steel, tires and power units. Jordan Electricity Authority. CD: 14/2/1990.

TN: 4/90. Design and Engineering Supervision at Rashadiya Factory. Garage for heavy machinery maintenance (steel structure). Workshops (concrete). Jordan Cement Factories Co. CD: 15/2/1990. TD: JD 5.

This service is free-of-charge. To publish your tenders in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with tender, auction, public sale, garage sale, bazaar sale, etc., details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

## Industrial Zones

**United Confectionery & Food Co. Ltd.**  
Location: Amman Industrial Estate/Sahab  
International license: Working under license from Danish Butter Cookies.  
Starting Production date: 1987 Invested Capital: JD 45,000  
Number of workers: 28 technicians and workers.  
Type of production: ● Top quality of butter cookies with a production capacity of 200 kg/hr and exporting 40% to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and some of the Arab Gulf countries. ● Natural food concentrates with a productive capacity of 1500 bottles per hour from the local market and possible exports.  
The company is looking on expanding its exports to cover all the Arab Gulf countries.  
**United Confectionery & Food Co. Ltd.**  
P.O. Box: (1565) Amman  
Tel: 722307

**Global carpet and Rug Industries**  
Location: Amman Industrial Estate/Sahab  
Starting Production date: September of 1989  
Joint Venture: 90% Jordanian shareholders and 10% Iraqi.  
Invested Capital: about JD 4.5 million  
Number of Workers: 120 workers.  
Production rate is 7 million m2 annually from wall-to-wall carpet with an export rate of (7.5%) to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The company producing in beginning of this year.  
Intensive efforts is undertaken by the company to export to the European and other Arab markets.

**Global Carpet and Rug Industries**  
P.O. Box: (333) Amman  
Tel.: 687181 / 722811

## Shows &amp; Exhibitions

## DRUPA 90

DRUPA 90, scheduled in Dusseldorf, W. Germany, between 27 April and 10 May, 1990, will be the Exhibition for Information and Development throughout the world. Exhibition will include a complete range of sectors in the printing and paper industry. Contact Address: Messe Dusseldorf Code INT 199. Postfach 32023 Dusseldorf. Tel. 0211/4560-01. Telex: 858453 mesd Fax: 0211/4560-668.

## Rising wholesale prices cause September index to surge

Continued from page 9

port equipment (by 18 per cent). Other increases were reported in pharmaceutical drugs (12 per cent), clothes and textiles (11 per cent), vegetables (8 per cent), paper and cardboard (7 per cent) and dairy products and eggs (6 per cent).

A major drop of 14 per cent in wholesale fruit prices was reported in 1988.

A three-quarter average (January-September), for 1989 over 1988, indicates a 74.9 per cent increase in the general index up from 147.9 in 1988 to 197.4 in 1989. All the 18 commodities, listed in the Amman wholesale price index, exhibited various increases as follows: Transport equipment (80.5 per cent), wood (77.6 per cent), paper and cardboard (75.6 per cent), durable consumer goods (71.6 per cent), vegetables (62.4 per cent), construction materials (43.5 per cent), fruits (41.3 per cent), clothes and textiles (39.3 per

cent), detergents and soaps (36.5 per cent), dairy products and eggs (26.3 per cent), pharmaceutical drugs (25.6 per cent), meat and poultry (16.7 per cent), cigarettes (16.6 per cent), footwear and leather products (16.0 per cent), soft and alcoholic drinks (15.4 per cent), cereals and pulses (8.0 per cent), fuel (6.7 per cent) and other foodstuffs (3.7 per cent).

Commodity price data, reported in the World Bank news bulletin, indicate the following changes in commodity prices for the period January-November 1989 over 1988: (in per cent terms): Brazilian coffee (-16.6 per cent), Thailand rice (+6.4 per

cent), corn sorghum (+7.7 per cent), maize (+4.3 per cent), Canadian wheat (+12.5 per cent), US wheat (+14.3 per cent), lamb (-4.0 per cent), US beef (+1.0 per cent), sugar (+24.9 per cent), wool (-7.0 per cent), US cotton (+15.3 per cent), US rubber (-19.4 per cent), aluminium (-18.7 per cent), silver (-36.4 per cent), gold (-13.3 per cent), rebar steel (+12.5 per cent), crude oil (official +1.2 per cent, spot +19.1 per cent), plywood (-1.4 per cent), wood pulp (+9.9 per cent), phosphate rock (+13.6 per cent), urea (-14.5 per cent), TSP (-7.8 per cent), DAP (-10.4 per cent), and potassium chloride (+13.1 per cent).

## Saudi Arabia to establish relations with Moscow

Amman (Star) - Political changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will probably speed up the process of normalising diplomatic relations between most Gulf countries and Eastern bloc states. According to the authoritative Foreign Report newsletter of 1 February, Saudi Arabia is

planning to establish full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and China possibly this summer. The newsletter says that Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan a year ago has eased relations between Riyadh and Moscow and President Gorbachev will allow more Soviet Muslims to

make the pilgrimage to Mecca this season.

As to Sino-Saudi relations the publication says the kingdom already deals with Peking at various high levels. It cites the Silkroad missile deal which gave Saudi Arabia the capability of hitting Iranian and Israeli targets.

## Soviet Jews . . . they keep pouring in

ACCORDING TO the Israeli Jerusalem Post newspaper some 4,585 Soviet immigrants arrived in January, the largest monthly figure since the current wave of immigration began last summer.

Only 2,228 Soviet Jews arrived in all of 1988. Some 12,923 Soviet Jews immigrated in 1989.

According to the Jews Agency, only 115 Soviet Jews went to destinations other than Israel last

month. An Agency source said that, based on the number of Soviet Jews holding visas, some 6,000 Soviet immigrants are expected in February. Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Agency board of governors, said that it costs about \$1,400 to bring a Soviet immigrant and his belongings to Israel.

During the first year, it costs the government some \$3,600 per person for rent and monthly stipends.

In addition, he said, the Jewish Agency estimates that 44 out of every 100 immigrants will need job retraining at a cost of \$7,500 per person. Kaplan said that although it has taken a little longer for Diaspora Jewry to grasp the magnitude and importance of the current influx, Jews abroad are beginning to open up their pocketbooks. He said that 11 million pounds was raised this week at a London fundraiser.

The United Jewish Appeal and Keren Hayesod organisations have taken upon themselves to raise \$600 million over the next three years in a special drive on behalf of Soviet immigration.

The IMF insists that new economic measures be adopted by Cairo before a standby credit is considered. While commending Egyptian steps taken to reduce the budget deficit for fiscal 1989-90, the IMF is pressing Cairo to raise real interest rates to encourage Egyptian pound savings and to rationalise exchange rates.

The delay in reaching an agreement is jeopardising Egyptian relations with the World Bank, which in September 1989 had expressed a willingness to consider a round of fresh lending to support the government's economic reform programme.

Adding to the pressures on the Egyptian government to reach an IMF agreement is the need to make payments on its \$5.5 billion military debt to the United States. Nations who have incurred debts under the foreign military sales programme have almost all U.S. aid cut off if they fall more than 12 months behind

## UAE economic future brightens

The US is reporting brightening economic prospects for the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The seven-emirate federation has weathered the relative recession of the mid-1980s, and the increase in oil prices in 1987 began a new phase of economic growth. The balance of payments remains positive and the overall balance of trade continues to be in the black.

The UAE government has been emphasising its dual efforts to decrease dependence on petroleum and to increase the size and productivity of the private sector. In 1988, the contribution of the non-oil sector to the GDP rose 3.2 per cent to a total of 66.6 per cent, with the oil sector percentage falling to 33.4 per cent.

The future commercial outlook for the UAE is encouraging for several reasons. The government philosophy toward business is one of a strong commitment to free enterprise. Also, the UAE is gaining recognition as a regional entrepot and centre for Gulf trade promotion. The free-trade zone at Jebel Ali in Dubai continues to show large growth in the value and weight of the imports and exports it handles, chiefly because of the generous incentives it offers users.

UAE exporters enjoy a larger market than the small size of the federation would suggest. As a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) the UAE is beginning to share markets in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia (the other GCC member states). Also, markets in Iran, Iraq, Africa and the Indian subcontinent are becoming profitable for UAE businessmen.

Foreign businesses are showing renewed interest in Dubai, the second-largest member of the federation, as a foothold in the Gulf, in order to cash in on eventual reconstruction business in Iran and Iraq and increased

post-war investment in other Gulf countries. More than a dozen Japanese, European and US multinationals set up regional headquarters there in 1989.

## Algeria pushing economic reforms

Algeria's new Prime Minister, Mouloud Hamrouche, has announced sweeping measures to liberalise the economy and attract foreign investment. The reform programme covers practically all areas of economic activity. Banks are being granted autonomy in project financing in both the public and private sectors; regulations granting state enterprises monopoly over trade and production are being abolished in most industries; foreign firms now may set up local offices; tourism has been fully opened to private-sector joint ventures; consumer subsidies have been reduced; and the dinar is being allowed to devalue slightly against major foreign currencies. In addition, private firms now will receive a portion of the government-controlled import budget, to be disbursed by the National Chamber of Commerce.

The government also intends to reduce Algeria's financial dependence on hydrocarbons (98 per cent of foreign exchange income) through economic diversification, with the private sector encouraged to play a more active role in the domestic economy.

Algeria's recent poor economic performance can be directly attributed to the collapse of its long-term economic development planning when oil revenues fell drastically in 1986. Foreign income was halved in two years, creating both a balance of payments crisis and a budget deficit. At the same time, Algeria has been facing a population explosion, with an annual growth of 3.3 per cent, one of the world's

highest. This has led, along with the economic crisis, to unemployment levels of at least 20 per cent, with about half of the unemployed being under 25.

The international banking community appears to have faith in Algeria's economic reform efforts. The government has successfully negotiated good-sized loans with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The latter is making available more than \$400 million to enable Algeria to liberalise the economy, modernise ports and improve irrigation systems. At the same time, the IMF is lending Algeria an initial \$200 million and a follow-up of \$400 million. In addition, the nation's leading creditors - France, Italy, Japan and Spain - by extending new lines of credit have effectively refinanced its \$21 billion in debts.

The steady world price of oil also suggests that the country's oil and gas monopoly, Sonatrach, may be able to improve its foreign currency income to almost \$9 billion, up at least \$1 billion from last year.

## Kuwait to expand tanker fleet

Chairman Abdul Fattah al-Badr has announced that the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) will purchase 11 new oil tankers worth \$500 million. In an interview with the Kuwait daily Al-Qabas, al-Badr said that the cost of transporting petrochemicals is expected to increase significantly over the next few years. KOTC, which presently operates 20 vessels, transports about 60 per cent of Kuwait's petroleum product exports and approximately 30 per cent of its crude oil exports.

The first purchases will be four large liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) carriers, followed by super-size crude carriers and

large product carriers.

Last June, al-Badr predicted that "the world will face a tanker shortage within the next two years similar to the one that occurred in the 1970s," followed by a four-fold increase in freight rates.

## Egypt-IMF talks stalled

Talks between Egyptian and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials in Washington recently still have not resulted in any progress toward a final agreement on a standby credit. This is particularly bad news for Cairo, since the planned meeting with the Club of Paris to discuss the rescheduling of approximately \$10 billion of debt repayments falling due July 1988-December 1990 must now be delayed.

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Monday, 27 February 1990



## Our Say...

### Violence breeds violence

WHILE WE share the rest of the world in condemning the attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt this week as an act of violence that does not serve the cause of peace in the region, we believe that these condemnation should fall on Israel and not only on the persons who carried out the attack.

We say this as we are reminded of the daily atrocities incurred by innocent Palestinian population in the occupied territories.

We see the more than one thousand victims of Israeli oppression who were killed during the three years of Intifada as not different from the tourists who were killed by terrorists.

The Israeli reaction therefore should not be one of wrath and anger and vindictiveness, but of finally coming to terms with the facts that will continue to distinguish this region and the people who live in it. Violence can only breed more violence and the use of firearms and grenades is not a monopoly of Israeli settlers and zealous Israeli soldiers. Radicalism in Israel's leadership can only give incentive to radicalism in the Arab world to grow and prosper. In the end moderation will lose ground and the possibility of bloody confrontations will become a daily terror.

We in the Arab world see the current efforts to bring about a peaceful conclusion to the four decades of Arab-Israeli conflict fizzling away leaving in their place only despair and hopelessness.

What the world must understand is that fundamentalism and radicalism are not features which are unique to the Arab world. We have seen examples of Zionist bigotry in the actions of Gen. Sharon, Rabbi Kahane and Moshe Levinger. We have seen Arab children being shot in the head by hateful Israeli soldiers who are not sure of their mission in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

His Majesty King Hussein has warned recently of the dangers that lie ahead. In his view the real danger lies in Israel's active absorption of thousands of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab areas. Again His Majesty has warned against the threat of Israel executing its design of "Jordan is Palestine" or "The Jordanian Option". These actions can only suffocate the last chance of peace in the area.

With current Israeli actions and the fizzling out of peaceful efforts one can only expect a rise in radicalism on both sides to the conflict. This tense situation cannot last forever and while there is political relaxation in Europe and between the two super powers the Middle East is the only area where the causes of destabilisation are becoming numerous leaving no other possibility but bloody confrontations.

Again we condemn the attack on innocent civilians, but we see the real danger lying behind such acts of terror on both sides. We warn against them and hope the moderates on the opposing sides will act before it is too late.



### Letters to the editor

#### No Struggle for power

To the editor:

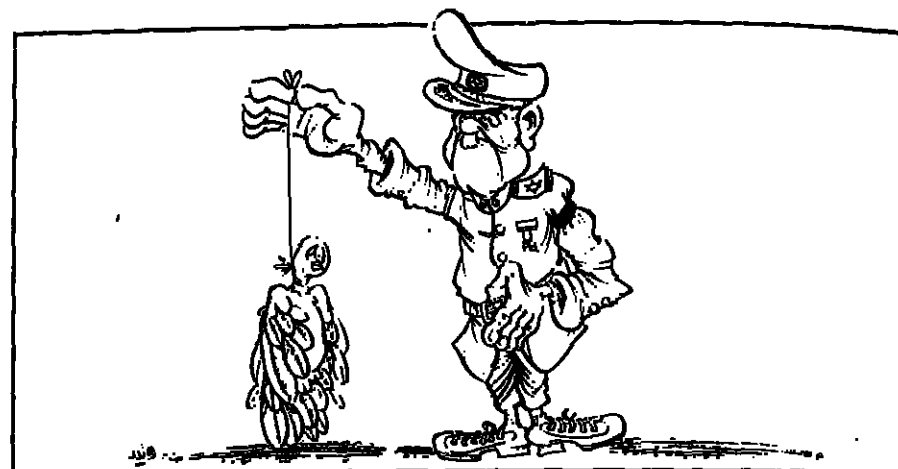
IN HIS article, "The return to Islam - An option or a reclusé," which appeared in The Star issue 2, dated 24 January, Dr Labib Khamhawli said that there was a struggle for power between the Umayyads, represented by Muawia and the Hashimites, represented by Imam Ali.

It is surprising that an acknowledged researcher accepts an orientalist claim without verifying it through scientific research.

Muawia never voiced the claim to the caliphate before the death of Ali. The only thing he demanded was that the murder of caliph Usman be handed over to him in his capacity as the representative of the Umayyads.

After the death of Ali, Muawia and Ali's son, Hassan, were candidates to the caliphate. Hassan solved the dilemma by renouncing his claim in favour of, in his opinion, "the most capable Muawia." So, where is the struggle for power between the Umayyads and the Hashimites Dr Khamhawli?

Khalid Tulic  
University of Jordan



### Postscript

by Osama El-Sherif

#### Blood of the Tsar

GORBACHEV'S PERESTROIKA has made a full circle and is now back in the Soviet Union to find a beleaguered communist regime.

During last year the power of perestroika ran havoc with communist edifices of Eastern Europe. It has literally changed the face of these countries, and has, most importantly, freed the souls of their inhabitants.

New political systems are in the making in what used to be the backyard of the Soviet Empire.

Was this change intentional? Did President Mikhail Gorbachev know that his perestroika and glasnost will have such a breathtaking effect on the world as a whole? I think not. But it is important to remember that Mr Gorbachev did not spring to power - and begin to remove the curtains which kept the peoples of the Eastern bloc isolated from the rest of the world - if it were not for the fact that he himself was a product of the ideas and beliefs of the people inside and outside the Kremlin walls. Mr Gorbachev is not alone in his quest to introduce reforms and do away with consequences of the Stalinist era.

Today the Soviet Union is moving into another phase of reformation by embarking on the sensitive task of eliminating the privileged status of the communist party as a step towards introducing a multi-party system of government. This is what Mr Gorbachev calls the regeneration of communism... but is it? After more than 70 years communism is bankrupt as a political, economic and social system. Never mind the excuses and justifications, the blatant fact is that the Soviet Empire has collapsed.

The end of this empire is nothing like the demise of the Roman, the Persian, the Ottoman or even the British empires. The Soviet Union has peacefully succumbed to overwhelming internal pressure and external forces represented in the materialistic superiority of Western peoples and their way of life over those of the communist world.

The collapse of the Soviet Empire did not come as a result of nuclear or conventional wars. The empire gave away its settlements, and freed its subjects in Eastern Europe in such a way that nothing can be compared to it in modern history.

Surely this could not all be the work of one man. This same man is today threatened by his own creation. Perestroika has awakened national feelings and aspirations of the various ethnic groups living within the Soviet Union. The old hostilities of the times of the Russian Empire have returned to visit the grandchildren of the "heroes" of the 1917 Revolution. As a result Mr Gorbachev may lose Azerbaijan and Georgia in addition to Poland and Hungary. The empire may not only lose its satellites but parts of itself too.

One cannot but wonder in fascination how a large chunk of Asia and Europe has survived during the last 70 or more years. That continuous search for identity and purpose in life did not stop despite Lenin's indoctrinations, Stalin's tyranny and Brezhnev's fruitless attempts to forestall the inevitable.

Under totalitarian rule the people's of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union had secretly cherished the same hopes and aspirations and when it was time to expose these hopes, what had to happen... simply, ridiculously happened. Seventy years had passed since the Tsar and his family were executed in the icy Siberian deserts.

The Bolsheviks who survived the long wintery month of embargo and isolation of 1917-18 had actually defeated a dying empire already worn out and divided. In the early 1900s feudal Russia was also a sort of anachronistic shamble of a state. The workers found themselves overtaken by zealous quasi-intellectuals. And so the chronic search for identity began seven decades ago but the dream that people rallied behind remains far and elusive.

As the role of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union begins to recede Russia folds a whole messy, wonderful, idealistic and bloody, chapter of its history.

The new Russia will be a different hybrid politics, geography, demography and economy. It will be a free Russia that, thanks to no one, has liberated itself... long after the blood of the Tsar had dried in the Siberian maelstrom.

## Peace efforts crumble at the wall of Israeli political realities

By Dr As'ad Abdul Rahman

EFFORTS TO bring about a peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis are currently facing a deadlock. Some believe that the present deadlock is either permanent or will last for some time as it is mainly concerned with Israel's body politics and is not mere formalities. The undeclared strategy of Israel stands now, as it always has, in the face of peace in the region unless that peace translates into complete Arab surrender.

Paradoxically, the American strategy in the Middle East is either in complete harmony with Israel's or else is the driving force behind it.

This actually means that peace efforts are facing the danger of being strangled or will, at best, fail to materialise without great difficulty and prolonged labour. The latest "glimpses of hope" projected by the Egyptian plan are being thwarted by the Likud's constant intransigence that has so far foiled all peace initiatives. It has become increasingly evident that the ruling Likud-dominated coalition will not settle for anything short of "Biblical Israel" and is unwilling to relinquish an inch of land.

Shamir's much-publicised elections were accepted by Israeli government in as much as they serve this specific end. The progress of the question of the political settlement has become a reflection of the political mood in Israel itself.

The roots of the present political crisis in Israel could be traced back to as early as 1973. In the general elections of that year, the Labour party had a poor performance at the polls and it became clear that its grip on the political life of Israel - firm since 1948 - was beginning to weaken.

The final blow came in the aftermath of the 1977 general elections which brought the Likud coalition to power for the first time since the establishment of the "State of Israel" in 1948. The unmitigated victory of the ultra-right in the elections of 1977 was repeated in the general elections of 1981. The results of the subsequent general elections of 1984 and 1988 deepened the crisis of Israel's Labour Party and drastically reshuffled Israel's body politics altogether.

Since the establishment of the Zionist state in 1948, and up to the general elections of 1973, the political life of Israel was characterised by the virtually undisputed dominance of one political party, i.e. Mapam, and later the Labour party. Owing in part to the historic leadership of the Labour Party led by Ben Gurion, Eshkol and

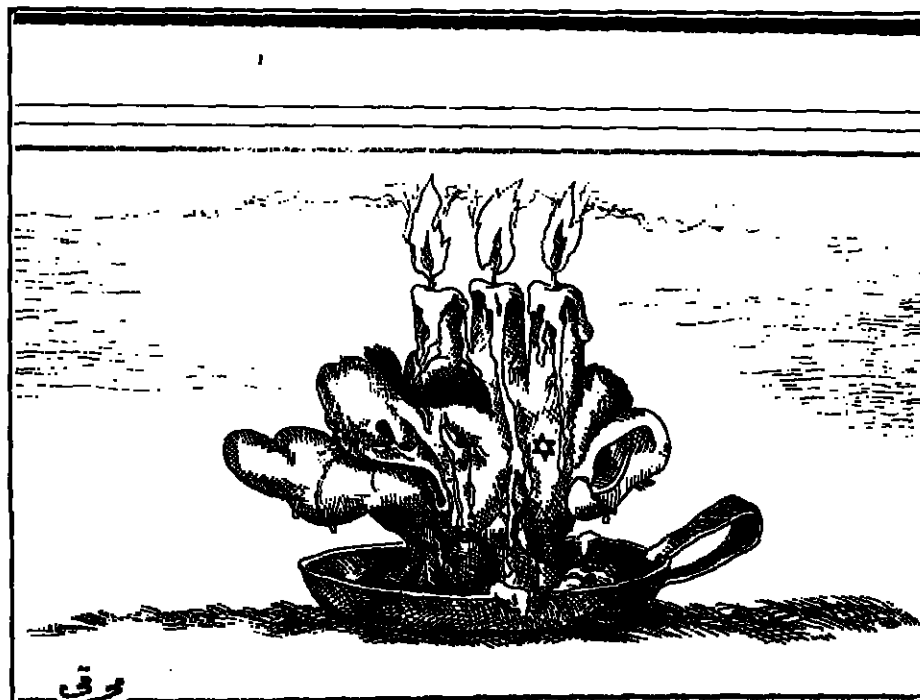
later Golda Meir and to the presence of what could be called "chronic opposition," the party was kept in good ideological and political order. The alignment of the Labour Party with Mapam and its co-operation with the national religious party (Mifdal) gave it the political power base needed to dominate the Israeli political arena, virtually unchallenged until 1973.

This is not the place to analyse the internal structure and composition of Israel's Labour Party or the forces which constituted its power base and the ethnic background of its ruling elite. It suffices to mention, however, that it was a party dominated by Western Jews (Ashkanazim) - their values and their life style. When the delicate demographic balance between Western and Eastern Jews was offset by the continuous influx of Safardim Jews, the Labour Party failed to re-adjust accordingly. Gradually, the Labour Party lost its touch with the new political realities. Emotional and psychological rifts found their manifestation in a corresponding political schism.



icated its electoral base. Some splinter groups within the Labour Party itself had more in common even with the "less fascist" groups within the Likud coalition than they had with one another.

Caused in part by the Palestinian uprising and its local, regional and international impact, and due to the increasing strife within, the Likud coalition and Herut Party began to suffer an ideological political crisis of their own. This crisis is expected to reach its climax this very week. It all began between two equally fascist groups within the Likud coalition: Yitzhak Shamir and Moshe Arenz on the one hand, Sharon, Levy and Modai on the other. All calls for moderation unheeded, Shamir decided to be more himself and to ignore all restraints his official position as premier warrant



ed. Shamir, rampant and unrestrained, appealed to Rabin and an unwritten agreement between the two emerged. Peres and Shamir were both - for different reasons and purposes - alienated from their respective parties. This alienation, whether for good or for bad, caused a further rapprochement between Rabin and Shamir. Paradoxical as this may sound, the closer Shamir and Rabin came together, the deeper the rift between Shamir/Arenz and Sharon/Modai/Levy grew. Equally true, the closer Shamir and Rabin became, the further apart drifted Rabin and Peres.

How could all this be understood politically, and what bearing does it have on present developments in the area? That will be left for this week's crucial Likud Central Committee meeting to unravel.

Dr As'ad Abdul Rahman is a professor of Political Science and a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

## View Point

by  
Yacoub Jaber

### Lessons from South Africa

THE PACKAGE of reforms announced last Friday by the South African President F.W. de Klerk heralds a new era in the agonizing history of that apartheid-stricken African country. After decades of tortuous struggle, the head of the racist regime succumbed to the majority's demands and adopted a set of reforms which fell short of abolishing the abhorred apartheid regime but nevertheless opened a new avenue for freedom. One can say that a dark chapter in the human rights abuses by the white-minority government has been folded.

Mr De Klerk, contrary to his predecessors, seems to have absorbed the lessons of history. He has realised that he could not continue to defy international and national demands at a time when the winds of change are sweeping the world. By legalising the outlawed anti-apartheid groups, he has opened the door for peaceful negotiations under a relatively relaxed atmosphere.

The decision to unconditionally release nationalist black leader Nelson Mandela is perhaps the most important result of Mr De Klerk's measures. The leader of the African National Congress (ANC) has spent 28 years of his life in jail. These long years of incarceration have not weakened his will or undermined his spirit of resistance. He continued to lead the struggle of his people from inside the prison and remained a "symbol of African patriotism for millions of his countrymen suffering under the yoke of racial discrimination and oppressive policies."

Mandela persistently refused to bargain over his release and insisted that his freedom be linked to easing the suffering of the black African majority. He finally won. The 70-year-old Mandela will be set free on his own conditions. There is no doubt that during negotiations over his release, he insisted that by the time he steps into freedom, legality must be accorded to the political groups which combat apartheid.

The measures taken by the South African government, however, are only a step on a long road toward the final and full phasing out of the apartheid system. But they should be viewed as very important political decisions ushering in a new era of openness to democracy and social and political reforms. They pave the way for constructive dialogue about an eventual transfer of power to the African majority. Above all, the measures represent a positive and reasoned response to the requirements of the age and the dramatic shift towards liberalisation taking place around the world. Mr De Klerk understood that he can no longer swim against the tide of history and responded accordingly.

Will others who maintain their oppression of peoples' struggling for freedom and legitimate national rights learn the same lessons? This would take a lot of courage and political insight. The alternative, as the annals of mankind tell us, is an ultimate and disastrous fall in the abyss of history. No power on earth can deliver people determined to regain their national rights from achieving final victory over their oppressors.

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# World ivory ban : the Zimbabwean case

By Colleen Lowe Morna

**HARARE, ZIMBABWE** - It was a gloomy start to the new year in the back quarters of Space Age Products, one of the largest ivory manufacturing enterprises in Zimbabwe.

As a result of the international ivory ban which came into force in January, managing director Jason Cambizis told his staff that he was seeking permission from the ministry of labour to lay off 18 out of 40 carvers.

At a meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Switzerland late last year, East African countries, backed by Western environmentalists, argued that banning ivory was the only way to save the elephant from extinction. Five Southern African countries, led by Zimbabwe, refused to recognise the ban on the grounds that thanks to good management, they have more elephants than their environments can sustain.

They believe that the only way to preserve wildlife in a poor country is to attach an economic value to it. They vowed to continue selling ivory products.

The practical snag is that most of these countries' traditional customers come from the West. While tourists here have not stopped looking at ivory carvings, they are finding it impractical to buy.

Francis, an Ethiopian living in New York, visited Zimbabwe recently and was drawn into an ivory curio shop. When she asked the price of a carving, the shop owner - with an honest characteristic of Zimbabwean



As a result of the ivory ban more, and not less, elephants could be killed!

traders - warned that she would have trouble taking the piece into the United States.

Francis says she had no ethical problems with buying the carving. "In a country where governments have to cull elephants in order to sustain elephant populations, I don't have any qualms about buying it," she said. But she still decided against a purchase because of the risk of a customs check at a US airport.

Such decisions are having a ripple effect throughout the ivory manufacturing industry, which employs 800 people. According to Patrick Mavros, a

self-employed ivory carver and secretary of the Ivory Manufacturers Association, most large firms are laying off up to 30 per cent of their workers, and the squeeze is likely to get tighter.

The country stands to lose some US\$6 million annually from the closure of traditional ivory markets.

Says Rowan Martin, of the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management: "The ban is most significant in rural areas, where only a small component of the population are bearing the full cost of keeping elephants on their land. They do that because

of the income they get back from the elephant."

This concept is at the heart of Zimbabwe's wildlife conservation strategy. As Martin explains it: "Zimbabwe has a very pragmatic philosophy towards conservation in Africa. We believe that unless natural resources have a very high value placed on them, they tend to be displaced by other developments in the country."

"We've been very successful so far in extending that philosophy into all the rural areas of Zimbabwe, and our wildlife is continually increasing. We do not

see the solution in Africa to be for wildlife to end up in a few national parks managed by state funds."

Put simply, if wildlife has the same value for peasant farmers as their domestic livestock, they will look after it. When asked by a Western journalist if she had any qualms about wearing an ivory necklace, Zimbabwe's outspoken Minister of Tourism and Natural Resources, Victoria Chipoto retorted: "Do you have qualms about wearing shoes?"

Zimbabwe's wildlife policy has apparently paid off where the elephant is concerned. Compared to East African countries, where animals have been fenced off, hunted and poached indiscriminately, Zimbabwe has 61,000 head of elephant - about twice the country's ideal carrying capacity.

Now, with the ivory ban reducing the value of elephants, conservationists fear that more - not less - elephants are going to be killed. According to Martin, people are simply not prepared to have elephants on their property when it is a large, valueless animal that eats their crop.

Martin says wildlife should not be considered an international resource. "It has almost become axiomatic to talk about wildlife belonging to the world," he says. "In fact, it belongs to the people who pay the cost of its upkeep, in the country where it lives. We regard our wildlife much the same as we regard our domestic livestock. And no one thinks of cows and sheep as belonging to the world at large." PANOS

## Right to food should take priority over armaments - IFAD President

**DR IDRIS Jazairy**, president of The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has said that the "right to food" should take priority over "other claims for the allocation of resources previously diverted for military build-ups."

He was speaking on the opening day of the 13th session of the IFAD governing council which opened in Rome on 23 January.

He said he was hopeful that the 1990s would be less harsh for the world's poor, but cautioned that "this would depend on our common resolve and not on some decree of fate."

He said the 1980s had been exceptionally trying for many developing countries, particularly for the most vulnerable sections of society, recalling that the decade had begun with interest rates at historic highs and commodity prices at historic lows.

Jazairy said the fund would continue its efforts to incorporate poverty-related environmental

issues in its projects, "but we must find ways to provide additional grants of concessional funding to finance selected environmental components which cannot readily be reconciled with conventional cost-benefit analysis."

On the fund's 1989 activities, Jazairy said it had continued its programmes which were aimed at the rural poor. It had also been able to give greater "specificity" to its operations. Around \$273 million had been extended in 23 investment projects, in addition to 32 technical assistance grants, an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year.

He stated that co-financing of IFAD-initiated projects had increased four fold, from \$47 million in 1988 to \$187 million in 1989 - a further indication of the confidence that IFAD projects enjoyed among other bilateral and multilateral donors.

The four-day session of the (IFAD) meeting reviewed the

agency's activities over the past year, assessed their impact and discussed new initiatives between now and the year 2000.

The board considered a \$340 million lending programme and technical assistance grants as part of efforts to make IFAD increase the "specificity" of its operations.

Established in 1977 under a joint OPEC/non-OPEC initiative, IFAD is the only international financing institution created exclusively to help the poorest rural populations increase their production of food crops, improve their nutrition and raise their living standards.

Since it began operations in 1978, it has supported 266 projects in 93 developing countries and given out 326 technical assistance grants. Of the total cost of these projects - \$11.1 billion - IFAD has provided over \$2.9 billion, while co-financiers and recipient governments have contributed \$3.8 billion and \$4.4

billion respectively.

In 1989, the fund executive board approved 23 new projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East, in addition to 35 technical assistance grants for a cumulative total of \$714 million involving an IFAD contribution of \$273 million - an increase of 17 per cent over 1988.

In the early years, less than 50 per cent of the projects financed by the fund were initiated by it. In 1983-87, the proportion rose to 69 per cent, reaching more than 94 per cent in 1988-89.

IFAD lending falls into three categories, depending on the economic conditions of the recipient country. The fund has allocated two-thirds of its resources for highly concessional loans to 55 least developed countries, to be repaid in 50 years, with an annual service charges of one per cent. Regionally, Asia has received the bulk of fund lending (45.3 per cent), followed by Af-

rica (36.9 per cent). Intermediate loans, which account for 27.6 per cent of the lending, carry a four per cent interest rate and are repayable in 20 years.

IFAD was set up as the result of a recommendation by the world food conference of 1974. Its main financial support comes from OPEC and non-OPEC countries, excluding Ecuador. The former are grouped in "category I", while the OPEC states form "category II". Non-OPEC developing countries, the main beneficiaries, constitute "category III". All categories have equal voting strength.

According to Jazairy, the fund is different from other international forums because it is not run on the basis of a dollar and dollar approach, but is grounded on a genuine partnership between industrialised and developing countries with the former having only 33 per cent of the votes on the governing board, compared with 66 per cent for OPEC and other developing countries.

# Bob Dole and the aid controversy

By Masood Haider  
Special to The Star

**NEW YORK** - When in May 1989 Israel kidnapped Shilo leader Sheikh Obeid in Beirut, Senate minority leader Republican Bob Dole criticised Israel for perpetuating the hostage crisis and thus incurred the wrath of the powerful Israel lobby and its Congress and administration supporters.

Bob Dole, who has never been shy of sounding alarm, has done it again. This time he dared touch a cow which is sacrosanct to the American aid to Israel.

In an op-ed article in The New York Times, the Republican senator from Kansas, who almost defeated George Bush in the primary race, called for "re-allocation" of foreign aid and asked pressure groups to relax their stranglehold on Congress.

"Can't those pressure groups that have turned some of our foreign aid programmes virtually into 'entitlement programmes' realise that making some minor adjustments in aid allocations can simultaneously serve the countries of their special interests and America?"

He named the "so-called earmarked countries that take most of our current aid budget" as "the big five - Israel, Egypt, the Philippines, Turkey and Pakistan."

As anticipated, the alarm bells started to ring from the one lobby by which he was so concerned about. In a sequel to Bob Dole's article, Richard Cohen, a Washington Post columnist, wrote, "He (Senator Dole) was referring to the Israel lobby, whose existence is beyond dispute, whose

influence is great and which annually bullies Congress into appropriating about \$3 billion in aid to Israel." Egypt gets \$2.1 billion, Turkey \$610 million, Pakistan \$490 million, and the Philippines \$360 million.

Mr Dole suggested a five per cent across-the-board cut in current aid programmes, which would save about \$330 million - which he felt would be enough to respond to the needs of the countries - from Poland to Panama - where restoration of democratic rule is considered to be afoot.

Israel's supporters in Congress and media, reacting to Dole's suggestion, urged instead there was need to "increase the pie" and not cut Israel's slice. Israel, they said, needs more money not less. Since the United States restricted immigration from the Soviet Union, it is Israel, they argue, that must and wants to accommodate Jewish emigrants from the USSR.

Having closed American doors to these people "we should not close our wallets also."

Some backers of a continued hefty package for Israel have suggested that Dole should look around. For instance, El Salva-

## The US pays \$4 billion in interest on money it borrows to give Israel

By Frank Collins

FOR THE past 15 years, Israel's ailing economy has been saved from going under by generous grants of American money, neither to be accounted for, nor over to be repaid. The catch is that the United States has had to borrow the money for the grants freely given to Israel for military and economic assistance. Interest-bearing and repayable US loans to Israel were fully replaced by outright grants in 1985.

The required borrowing might have been of little importance to American taxpayers if the amounts of money involved were small and if the money were being expended for purposes in accord with America's national interests.

Because of the relentlessness of compound interest, however, the debt plus interest incurred by the US government from the borrowing for these grants has grown to more than \$55 billion. This is a debt comparable in magnitude to the total involved in the bankruptcies of savings and loan banks in the US in recent years. That debt, which has been incurred by the federal government under the savings and loan deposits guarantee legislation, is generally considered by economists to be a fiscal disaster.

Little has been said, however, about federal debts resulting from taxpayer grants to Israel. Both programmes are financed by borrowing that requires the

sale of US Treasury bonds. These must ultimately be redeemed by American taxpayers.

For the fiscal year 1990, which began 1 October 1989, compound interest on the federal government debt that had accumulated from grants to Israel was over \$4 billion, an amount even greater than that year's grant of \$3 billion in US military and economic aid to the Jewish state. The effective cost to American taxpayers of the compound interest on the past debt, plus new grants for 1990, was therefore \$7 billion, \$1.600 for each of Israel's 4.5 million citizens.

The situation will progressively worsen with each passing year. If the present policy of annual \$3 billion grants to Israel continues, and present interest rates remain stationary, in five years the amount borrowed by the US government to support Israel will be just short of \$100 billion. The interest payable on this debt in fiscal year 1994 will be \$8 billion, with the interest continuing to spiral upward year after year.

Discontinuance of the \$3 billion in annual grants to Israel in fiscal year 1991 (which begins

Oct. 1, 1990) would lighten, but not eliminate, the fiscal load on US taxpayers due to the accumulated debt. If the grants were stopped now, the debt in 1994 would be approximately \$80 billion, already a savings of almost \$20 billion. Savings on the debt would increase in the succeeding years.

Of the fiscal year 1990 US foreign aid package of \$14.65 billion, \$3 billion went to Israel and \$2.278 billion went to Egypt, all in the form of grants. The value of the grants on a per capita basis, exclusive of compound interest costs, was \$670 for Israel and \$40 for Egypt. The remaining \$9.09 billion in the US foreign aid package had to suffice for all of the Third World.

As in the case of Israel, foreign aid loans to Egypt were converted into outright grants in 1985. This had similar consequences with respect to the loading of American taxpayers with a huge debt from the operation of the law of compound interest. The money borrowed by the US for the grants to Egypt, plus compound interest, amounted to approximately \$10 billion at the end of the fiscal year 1989 and

will continue to escalate thereafter.

### Israel not accountable for US funds

The American grants to Israel go into the general funds of the Israeli treasury. Expenditures of these funds do not receive the scrutiny of American accountants. This lack of accountability by Israel is unique among countries receiving US aid. Under procedures applied to Israel alone, US earmarking of the funds for specific expenditures is so difficult that the Israelis, in effect, are free to spend the money as they will. This means that the American grants enable Israeli discretionary spending on projects such as the invasion of Lebanon, the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, and military repression of a civilian uprising. The list of such Israeli actions contrary to American policies, partially financed by American taxpayers, is a long one.

The costs of the continuing grants to Israel, the consequent escalation of the US national debt, and the costs of compound

interest on this debt are burdening the American budget at a time when unmet funding needs in the United States are growing rapidly. It is sufficient to mention the homeless, the drug problem, the schools, the highways and the environment.

### In Israel's interest

Finally, there is legitimate concern over whether the American grants are in the best interests of Israel itself. Besides the opportunity that the money allows the Israelis to undertake projects contrary to American interests, it enables the Israeli government to subsidise uneconomic institutions such as the kibbutzim, the consortium of Hissadrut enterprises KOOR, the Jewish settlements and above all, the bloated military establishment. The American grants foster the common Israeli attitude that, no matter how uncompromising the Israeli stand, Uncle Sam will always pick up the tab. In the six years that I have spent in the Middle East, every Israeli I've met has been convinced that the outpouring of American aid would continue as long as Israel asked for it.

Frank Collins is an American free-lance journalist who divides his time between Jerusalem and Washington, DC. He has a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Columbia University.



## Insight

By  
Dr Nabil Al-Sharh

### Thwarting Zionist goals

THE DECISION of the PLO's Executive Committee earlier this week to upgrade its co-ordination with Jordan comes at a very important juncture, and expresses a responsible and enlightened stand concerning the dangers and challenges that face both Jordan and the Palestinians.

Shamir and his followers do not hide the fact that their envisaged "solution" for the intifada can only come at Jordan's expense. Zionist activist such as (Jordan is Palestine) Committee work tirelessly to bring about this coveted Zionist goal. Instead of addressing the legitimate expectations and aspirations of the Palestinian people, Israel is trying to run away from the problem created by its own racist actions by creating division and disarray within Arab ranks.

The PLO's decision, therefore, is an appropriate expression of awareness and readiness to respond to the new challenges. It remains to be seen, however, how will these decisions be implemented and channeled in the service of safeguarding Arab interests against Zionist plots.

It is also true that both Palestinians and Jordanians look forward to witnessing a solid and frank co-operation between Jordan and the PLO, overcoming the undeniable barriers of mistrust and suspicion. The new challenge by Zionist extremists pose equally destructive threats to both Jordan and the Palestinians; and they can only be constructively met by true, honest and unreserved co-ordination between the two parties.

No one can deny the PLO the right of trying to look for allies and partners among the various Arab countries. The PLO, after all is the sovereign legitimate representative of the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people. But no matter how hard the PLO may try, it will never find a "natural ally like Jordan who is organically, politically, historically and socially connected to the Palestinian cause.

The brutal and devious schemes by the rightist circles in Israel should quickly find their match in new co-ordinated co-operation between Jordan and the PLO. This is the only way to foil these Zionist plots. But the problem is that time is running fast, and it remains to be seen if we can promptly respond to the challenge before it is too late.

## Co-operation between Turkey, Syria and Iraq is not holding water

AS THE concrete hardens on Turkey's plug in the Ataturk Dam, tension builds downstream on the Euphrates, in water-starved Syria and Iraq.

Turkey's 13 January action diverted the flow of the Euphrates River in order to fill the reservoir of the Ataturk Dam, which is 40 miles north of the Syrian border. For the next four weeks, as the reservoir fills to 394 feet, the riverbed directly under the dam will remain dry. Syria and Iraq must rely on tributaries farther downstream for their daily water, and this amounts to about 120 cubic metres per second - a sobering blow to the thirsty nations which have received 500 cubic metres of water per second since 1987.

Both countries are already tense after last summer's drought. Syria especially feels the pinch. Unlike Iraq, which can look to the Tigris River for some of its water needs, Syria relies solely on the Euphrates for drinking water, irrigation, industry and much of its electricity. Last summer's drought left the Tabqa Dam, source of 70% of the nation's electricity, with 8 billion cubic metres of empty space.

Iraq, however, immediately called for a halving of the dry period because of the potential impact on agriculture. Iraq estimates it needs a minimum of 13 billion cubic metres of water per day to meet its needs, and the stoppage reduces available water to 11 billion cubic metres per day for the month. Iraq's reservoirs are full, for now. But with Syria in such dire straits, Iraq is concerned that the country will hoard the precious commodity in the Tabqa Dam, leaving little for Iraq. Turkey ignored the request.

Turkey maintains that four weeks is the minimum amount of time needed to fill the reservoir, and filling the reservoir is necessary in order to start the generators of the dam. The generators are scheduled to produce 2,400 megawatts of electricity by 1991.

But with both Iraq and Syria playing host to the rebel Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) - which has been at war with Turkey for five years - some claim Turkey is aiming to punish its neighbours. PKK attacks along both the Iraqi and Syrian borders have increased in the past few

its high average daily rainfall, which Ankara hoped would minimise any ill effects. Also, in anticipation of the cutoff, Ankara boosted water flow beginning 23 November to about 750 cubic metres per second - and because of high rain-fall, an average of 750 cubic metres per second came in. Ankara also offered Syria electricity supplies to compensate for the impending

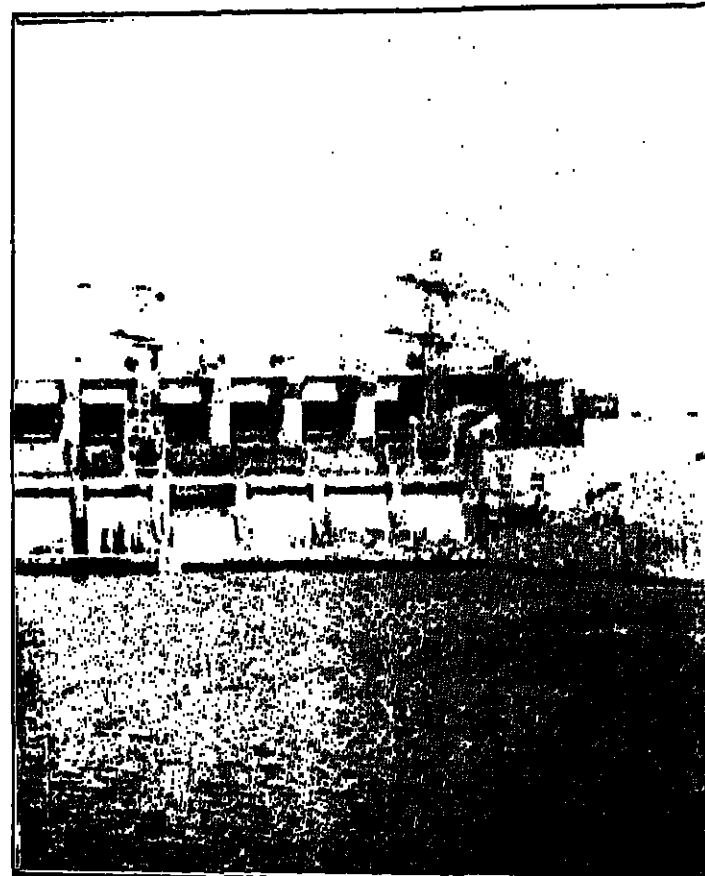
ter 13 February.

The Greater Anatolia Project (GAP), however, implies otherwise. This ambitious \$11 billion scheme, brainchild of then-Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, will fully irrigate Turkey's six south-eastern provinces by the year 2000. The filling of the Ataturk reservoir as a part of the plan, which also involves constructing 21 dams along the Tigris and Euphrates by the year 2000. The Ataturk reservoir alone will hold four times the annual flow of the Euphrates.

But as a side-effect, Syria's estimated annual Euphrates flow will drop from an average of 32 billion cubic metres per year to approximately 20 billion cubic metres per year. The scheme will also downgrade water quality, as water used in Turkish irrigation projects could carry contaminants - including pesticides - back into the river and downstream. Syria already suffers from water and power shortages, and is beset with a population growth rate of 3.7% per year.

Although both Syria and Iraq are deeply affected by the impending GAP, neither were consulted during the planning stages of the project. Even now, Turkey will not agree to high-level talks on Euphrates water sharing. Until it does, the World Bank is withholding GAP funds.

Middle East nations have long had trouble co-operating in water distribution agreements. A 1988 study by the Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) in Washington D.C. cited three main factors that could bring about a water crisis by the turn of the century: increased water consumption - due to increasing population; inefficient maintenance and operation of facilities - due to the prevalence of unskilled workers in water treatment and sewage plants; and, predictably, poor co-operation among countries with common resources.



months. Also, in October, Syria shot down a Turkish survey aircraft in Turkey's Hatay Province, for which it is paying \$14.5 million in compensation. Turkey denies any political motivation for the stoppage.

Even though the Turkish authorities did not consult the downstream riparians, Ankara has been somewhat sensitive to their needs. First, the month of January was chosen because of

shortage, as well as an agreement for co-operation in exploiting natural gas reserves.

Turkey is convinced that the 120 cubic metres per second plus the excess volume collected last month will give the two countries more than enough water for this month - it estimates 506 cubic metres per second. Finally, Turkey promised that the water flow will be restored to 500 cubic metres per second after

MidEast Report

Reviewed by  
Fouad Moughrabi

### Books

## The Wrath of Jonah

THE APPEARANCE of this book is a significant event in itself. It demonstrates the remarkable change which has occurred in the discourse about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "The Wrath of Jonah" helps redefine key issues at a crucial moment in the history of the dispute and is also a solid work of demystification.

The book begins with the basic question, "What kind of repentance seems to be called for in order for Israelis and Palestinians to live together in justice and peace today?" The authors suggest that "one important step toward repentance lies in telling the truth about the history of both people." This is why a book of ethical and theological criticism devotes so much space to setting the historical record straight.

Israel is now brought back to earth and belongs to profane history. It is no longer the light unto

the nations that its apologists had claimed. As a state just like any other, say the Ruehthers, Israel "needs to be brought down from its theological heights of absolutised redemption from absolutised evil and seen as a human state with all its defects."

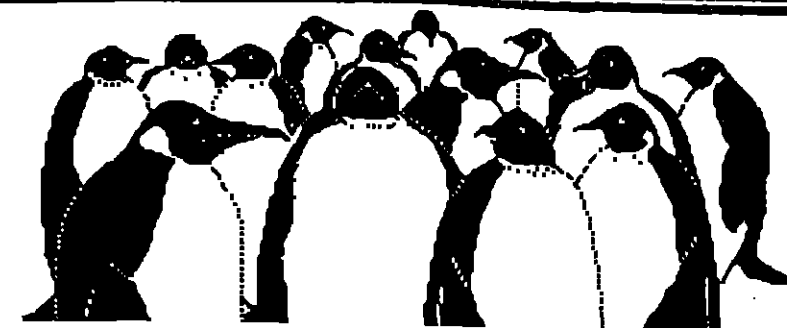
The book makes it clear that Israel, like other states, was born in original sin. The Ruehthers have read and incorporated the body of historical revisionist literature produced by leading Israeli historians about the 1948 period. The Palestinian refugees, says Benny Morris, did not leave of their own volition or because they were told to do so by Arab radio broadcasts. Most were driven out of their homes and the new occupiers destroyed their villages to make sure that the refugees would never return.

The Ruehthers document how other myths, so carefully cultivated in Israel and so long accepted in the West, are also being challenged. The late Simha Flapan revealed the truth about seven of the most important ones. It is simply false to say that the Arabs declared a holy war against the Jews in an effort to throw them in the sea. It appears that nearly all of the confrontation states were ready to come to a peace agreement with the new Jewish state; provided some of the refugees would be permitted to return. Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, said no.

The Ruehthers flatly reject the practice by apologists for Israel of equating critical examination of any aspect of the Jewish state with anti-Semitism. "Frank criti-

cism of political injustices in Israel is not anti-Semitism," they assert. As for acceptance by Jewish and Christian writers that response to the Holocaust means uncritical support for the state of Israel, the Ruehthers explain: "The proper response to any revelation of injustice is compassion for the victims, but also sorrow for the victimisers... The row for the victimisers... The point of authentic criticism of evil is not to justify more hatred and violence but to end the cycle of hatred and violence.

Human rights activists, theologians concerned about issues of social justice, scholars, laymen and politicians will benefit from a careful reading of this brilliant, clear and eminently fair analysis of the issues. This book addresses itself to the new and expanding constituency of peace loving Christians, Jews and Muslims in East and West, whose work will be greatly facilitated by the exposure of myths, half truths and lies. It is the new manifesto for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



### Around Town



### Royal patronage of tennis tournament

THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor attended the first round of the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania zone group 11 tennis tournament which was held Friday at King Hussein's Sports City. They three-day event ended with Malaysia achieving a clean victory over Jordan. The event was sponsored by Jordan InterContinental hotel and was organised by Jordan's tennis federation.

● The French Embassy in Amman will inaugurate Canal-France-International (CFI) satellite reception station today Thursday, 8 February.

Mr Fouad Benhalla president of CFI will attend the inauguration. CFI transmits its programmes to 24 French and Portuguese - speaking African countries, to North-Africa and to the Middle-East where Jordan is the first country equipped to receive it.

With the satellite reception station of CFI programmes, a bank

of 1460 hours a year of fiction, variety, youth, games and sports, will be available to Jordanian viewers. JTV will have three times more French-speaking shows than in 1989.

This substantial increase in the number of programme hours will allow JTV to develop not only its French broadcasting, but also its Arabic one. There are no particular restrictions on the use of CFI material by JTV. The four hours received daily by satellite could be recorded and broadcast as they are or they

could be inserted in the usual programmes.

● Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Dr Sumaryo Suryokusumo is back in Amman after a brief visit to his country.

● The Jordan Writers Association elected its board of directors Friday. Two blocs contested the elections; the "Democratic Bloc" won seven seats and the "Restructuring Bloc" won another four seats.

The new board elected Mr Abdul Rahim Omar as its president. Other members of the board are Badr Abdul Haq, Jamal Naji, Ibrahim Nasrallah, Hashem Gharaiebeh, Abdallah Radwan, Ilyas Farkoub, Salem Nahas, Ibrahim Absi, Hussein Juma' and Ibrahim Khalil.

● A senior-level workshop, "Applied Marketing", opens today, 8 February, at the Regency Palace Hotel, and will be conducted over a ten-week period, each Thursday morning, through 12 April 1990. The programme will provide advanced marketing training for teachers of marketing from the leading Community Colleges in Jordan. At the conclusion of the workshop a formal certificate will be awarded to those who attend.

The workshop will be under the direction of Mr. Mazin Sammarra, a professional in the field of marketing with many years of practical training and hands-on marketing experience. He is presently affiliated with the Middle East Trade Center in Amman.

The agenda of the workshop follows the marketing curriculum established for Community Colleges by the Ministry of Higher Education. It meets the "training of trainers" requirement of the mission of the marketing section of the Private Services Development Project (PSDP), which is sponsoring the work-

shop. PSDP is staffed primarily by Jordanian professionals and support personnel. It is under the direction of the Ministry of Planning and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

● His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd ben Zaid will patronise a charitable medical day, which organised by the Al Mustakbal Club for the Physically Handicapped on Friday in Jabel Al Hussein. President of the club Mohammed Sami Harzallah said the Doctors Association will participate in the event through a medical team comprising: Dr Youssef Othman, Dr Samir Faouri, Dr Badwal Badran, Dr Fouad Al Sour, Dr Mohammed Talafha, Dr Mohammed Sharaf, Dr Aliyhan Maghaira and Dr Ziad Subaih. Treatment and medicines will be free of charge to all citizens.

### Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

#### European Film Festival 10 - 17 February 1990 Philadelphia Cinema, Jebel Amman

#### Programme of Films

Saturday, 10 February  
(By invitation only)  
Sunday, 11 February  
Monday, 12 February  
Tuesday, 13 February  
Wednesday, 14 February  
Thursday, 15 February  
Friday, 16 February  
Saturday, 17 February

#### Long Live the Lady (Italy)

The Big Blue (France)  
On the Black Hill (United Kingdom)  
Sailors Don't Cry (Belgium)  
The Pilot (F.R. Germany)  
Birthday Town (Greece)  
Bewitched Love (Spain)  
Looking for Elleen (Netherlands)

(Films are in their original languages and subtitled in English. Films start at 8.00 p.m. and entrance is free of charge on a first come first served basis.)



## Arabic music hits the airwaves

Continued from page 6

Von Suppe's "Light Cavalry Overture" sounded an arresting brass unison, and the strings later achieved a rich G-string sonority, where otherwise their sound was rather thin. Sugar Idris gave a delightful rendering of the "Minuet" theme of Bizet's "Arlesienne Suite." Its final movement began with a bare-handed "Dabla"-style snare drum, which really breathed life into the concert by adding just a touch of wild abandon.

"Fuheis" Group for the "revival of Heritage", originally established in 1982 by students of the government Institute of Music and Fine Arts, gave the second concert. Now they are an 18-strong choir with a 10-piece band who have built up a considerable repertoire of "muashahat" and other old Arabic songs. Their leading light is lutenist, Sukkur Hailu, who succeeded in drawing both rousing choruses and tender expression from the mixed voices.

Of the Academy of Arab Music delegates who had filed into the front row, Tareq Abdul Ilakim of Saudi Arabia and Tawfiq Al Nemry of Jordan stood to receive the acknowledgement of the full audience when their songs were performed.

The second "Classical" Arabic group was that of the Jordanian

Musicians Association, which in spite of a rather thin budget, has since 1980 organised ensembles, concerts and lectures, promoting all types of music in Jordan. "Naghma al Araby" includes many of the same musicians as "Fuheis," but is generally a more mature group, so the voices were capable of achieving a really full choir sound thus facilitating the execution of dramatic nuances. Careful attention had been paid to diction and interpretation by Mustafa Sha'asha, the leader.

These incited the audience to progress from appreciative nodding and mouthing along with the words to creative clapping and loud appreciation of the solos. Notable amongst these was At al Hindele (voice), Adel Salame (lute) and the plaintive, almost weeping "nuy" of Hassan al Fakir.

The spirit of healthy enjoyment which pervades audiences at Arabic concerts is a heartening reminder that this is a musical tradition still very much alive - known and loved by the ordinary Jordanian.

This Arab music week will end with a concert (Thursday 8th) given by the Secretary General of the Executive Board of the A.A.M., the renowned Iraqi lutenist Munir Bashir.

## Beckenbauer's World Cup squad faces two 'unknowns'

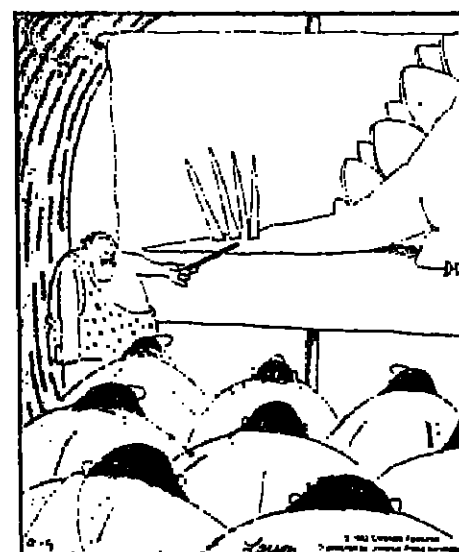


FRANKFURT - In their World Cup preliminary group games in Milan this June Franz Beckenbauer's German soccer squad will be playing Yugoslavia and two 'unknowns' - the United Arab Emirates and Colombia. It will be the first time that Germany has ever played either country. German team manager Franz Beckenbauer, who captained the 1974 World Cup-winning team, says his squad must feel duty bound to reach the last 16. The team's early season form will not be seen until 23 February, when they play their next friendly game against France in Montpellier. France has failed to qualify for the World Cup in Italy. After this fixture the team with which "Kaiser Franz" will cross the Alps should be clear.

Captain Lothar Mathaus, centre forward Jurgen Klinsmann and midfielder ace Andreas Brehme won't need to pack their bags. They are all under contract to Inter Milan and can look forward to "home games" against Yugoslavia, the United Arab Emirates and Colombia.

## The Far Side

By GARY LARSON



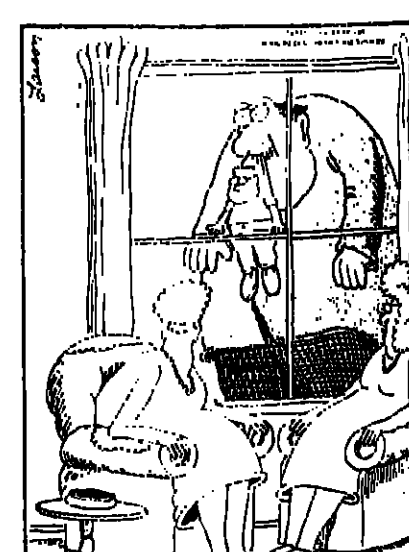
"How this end is called the thagomizer ... after the late Thag Simmons."



"Well, no wonder! ... This ain't the place."



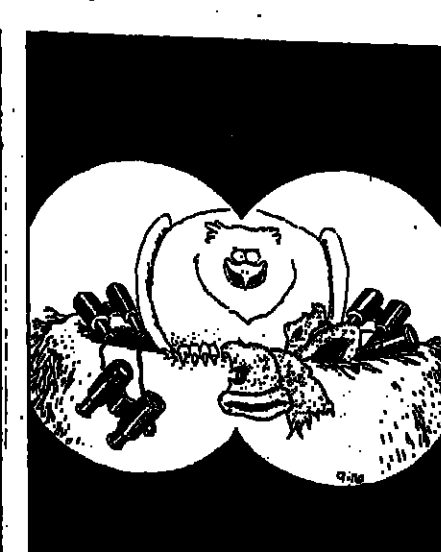
Columbus discovers America



"Well, here comes Stanley now ... Good heavens! What's he caught THIS time?"



"Sorry to bother you, Sylvia, but your Harry's over here ... and he's got my cat tread again."



"I'm leaving you, Charles ... and I'm taking the grub with me."



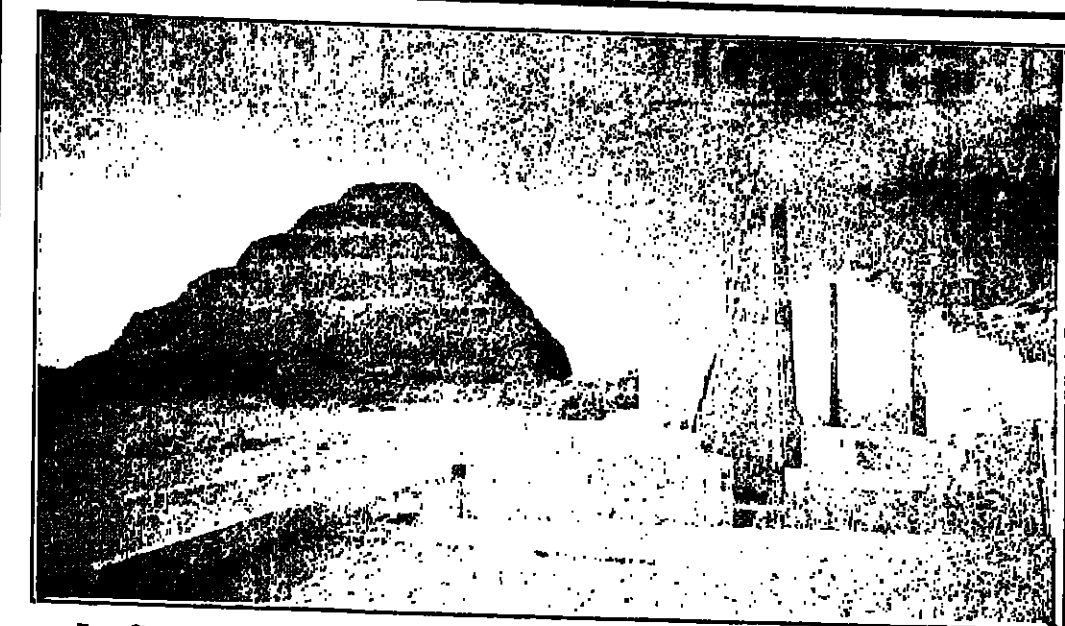
Cypriot President George Vassiliou addressing the opening session of the 5th Assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches.

The fifth assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) ended in Cyprus on 29 January after six days of deliberations with a series of resolutions covering the situation in Lebanon, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Cyprus, Sudan, and matters related to church unity, including proposals for arriving at a common date for Easter.

The Assembly also elected the four MECC presidents, the general secretary, and the new Executive Committee. The new Presidents are His Holiness Ignatios I Zacca Iwas of the Syrian Orthodox Church, and His Eminence Archbishop Youssef Khoury of the Maronite Church. His Beatitude Ignatios IV Hazim of the Eastern Orthodox

Church of Antioch, and His Grace Bishop Samir Kafity of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East were re-elected Presidents as well. Mr Gabriel Habib was re-elected General Secretary. His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of the Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia, a President of the Council coming into this Assembly, was elected honorary President of the Council.

It formally marked the membership of the seven Catholic churches of the Middle East in the Council, thereby bringing the Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical churches together in one ecumenical gathering for the first time in 15 centuries.



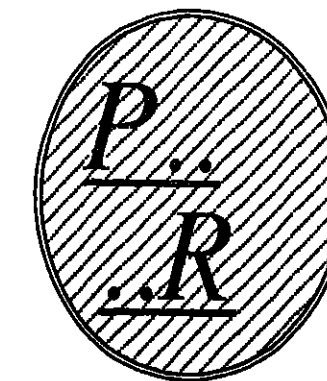
## In Saqqarah there is still something to be found

FOR NEARLY 200 years, the French School of Egyptology has had a high reputation. It has patiently persevered with its research with the help of ever more advanced methods and equipment made available thanks to technological development, but with limited financial means. It is hard to find funds for archaeological excavations.

But the members of the Saqqarah mission are not to be discouraged by this. This site, which, for centuries, has been pillaged by tomb-robbers, still contains a lot of treasures, archaeologically speaking. This is borne out by Christian Jacq who discovered a tomb which has practically remained untouched for more than 5,000 years, containing, among other things, an amphora still full of wine with its seal intact. It is the oldest wine in the world. Another discovery was made by A. Zivie who, after seeking for more than 10 years, discovered the tomb of Apep-EI, Amenophis III's prime minister. The tomb had been sealed and untouched for more than 3,500 years. It completely changes what was believed about the period of the 18th dynasty.



A Kan Zaman village has been opened at Safeway shopping centre and is attracting lots of kids and adults too. School tours are available during morning hours. The village, in the shape of a tent, will continue to be located at Safeway until 14 February.



## What's on at the Marriott

Valentine's Day Celebration in Al Walima Restaurant, Wednesday 14 February.

Wednesdays: Steak Special in the newly reopened Al Walima Restaurant.

Thursdays: Mexican Night in Al Mansaf restaurant. Everyone's favourite Mexican dishes from chile con carne to burritos and fajitas, etc.

Saturdays: Chinese Night in Al Mansaf.

Sundays: The best of Italy: The Marriott's special Italian buffet with Fresh homemade pasta.

Boeing 1989 sales and earnings

Sales of \$20.276 billion and

earnings \$973 million for 1989 were reported by Frank Shrontz, Boeing Chairman. These compared with \$16.962 billion and \$614 million for 1988.

Announced orders in 1989 for 963 commercial transport aircraft valued at \$47.5 billion set a new dollar record for the fifth consecutive year. The 737, 757 and 767 models again set new records in terms of number of aircraft ordered during a year.

In December Boeing offered firm proposals for the 767-X which, if launched, will be designated the 777. As currently configured, the 777 will be a wide-body twinjet filling a market segment between the 767-300 and 747-400. The proposed new jet transport would have a new wing and a wider fuselage than the 767 and could accommodate seating arrangements from six to 10 abreast. If the airplane is launched, initial deliveries are targeted for mid-1995.

The Company's 1990 sales are projected to be in the \$27-billion range. This increase in projected sales will result primarily from higher commercial aircraft deliveries and from some major defence and space programmes, such as the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System, CH-47 helicopter, space station, A-6 rewing and E-6 submarine communications aircraft.

## Agenda

## Concerts

● Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory in co-operation with the French Cultural Centre presents the Duo Maupin (two violins) accompanied by Elsa Matouk in a concert at Yamouk University theatre on Friday 9 February at 6:00 pm and at the Philadelphia Hotel Saturday 10 February at 8:00 pm. The programme will include works by Vivaldi, Mozart and Dvorak.

## Films

● The European Film Festival will start on Saturday 10 February continuing everyday until Sunday 18 February. For details see advertisement in people pages and story on page 7.

● Goethe Institute presents a video film "Scold before twelve", Thursday 8 February at 5:00 pm.

## Trips

Friends of Archaeology will organise a trip to Tell Maqass located about four kilometres northwest of Aqaba. Meeting point Aqaba's Miramar Hotel on Friday 9 February at 10:00 am. Plan to stay in Aqaba overnight.

## Wedlock



● Nabila Zakl Hijazeen to J. had Jamil Sahawna  
● Abeer Abdo Madadha to Mohammed Faleh Al Qaisi  
● Amal Zeldan Qatani to Imad Fouad Ayoub  
● Muna Aqleh Omeish to Majid Moreis Ghatas

## The Spanish Cultural Centre

Announces the start of an intensive Spanish language course.

— Duration of the course one and a half months for beginners.

— The course starts on Tuesday Feb. 13, 1990 and ends on Saturday March 31, 1990.

— Classes: Saturdays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at the rate of two hours a day from 5 to 7 p.m. Registration begins Tuesday Feb. 6, 1990.

For more information please call the Spanish Cultural Centre: Jabal Amman - First Circle, tel: 824048.

Wanted  
Adventurous, talented and fresh writers. Definitely no experience required. Write with details to: The editor, P O Box 9313, Amman.



King Hussein St. Tel. 638103/4    Meca St. Tel. 815439  
815457

THE STAR 21



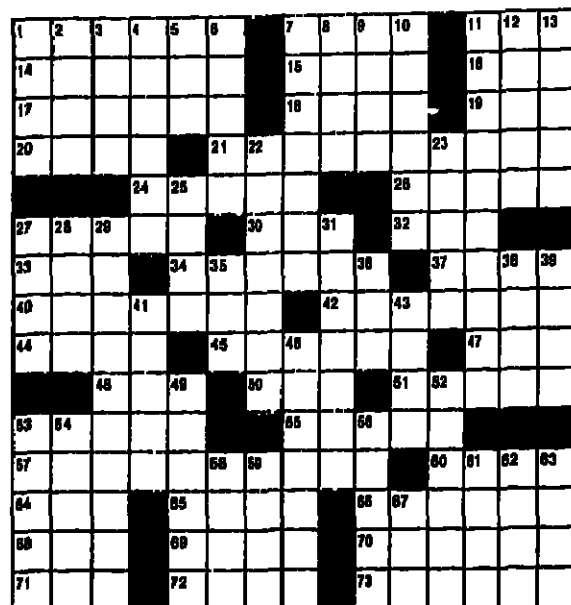
## Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

- 1 Reduction of a kind
- 7 Give ground
- 11 Machine part
- 14 In — and out the other
- 15 River to the Caspian
- 16 "Lion of God"
- 17 — Nevada
- 18 Hoarfrost
- 19 Sesame
- 20 Ms. Millay
- 21 Reinforce
- 24 "— you go again"
- 26 Papes
- 27 Street show
- 30 Black cuckoo
- 32 Small amount
- 33 Desert wear
- 34 Sew
- 37 Harvest
- 40 Shine
- 42 Surface measure
- 44 Mailed
- 45 Lower
- 47 Language: abbr.
- 48 Mouser
- 50 Deprive
- 51 Horse material
- 53 State of Brazil
- 56 "The Man Who — Be King"
- 57 Crowds with homes
- 60 Some accounts
- 64 — room
- 65 In the past
- 66 Sum
- 68 Nellie
- 69 Fragrance
- 70 Afr. river
- 71 Rds.
- 72 SAR word
- 73 Car bomba?

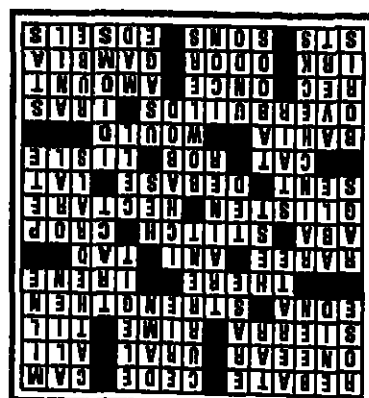
### DOWN

- 1 Rambler
- 2 Arthurian lady
- 3 Auxiliary verb
- 4 Fill with gas
- 5 Sailor
- 6 Delete
- 7 Modern
- 8 PA port
- 9 Condemn
- 10 Writ against a debtor
- 11 Churches
- 12 Foreigner
- 13 Pooh's creator
- 22 Handker
- 23 Treaties
- 25 Command old style
- 27 Tellers
- 28 Fit
- 29 Certain
- 31 Irving's Crane
- 35 TV's Danson
- 36 "For — a jolly good..."
- 38 Nuncupative
- 39 Fountain
- 41 Step
- 43 Enclosure
- 48 Alley
- 49 competitors
- 50 No-nos
- 52 Expressions
- 53 — Becker
- 54 Foretell
- 56 Manner of handling
- 58 Destroy
- 59 Religious image
- 61 Hick
- 62 Indigo
- 63 yelder
- 64 Depots: abbr.
- 67 Insane



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### Solution



## Sports Hall of Shame

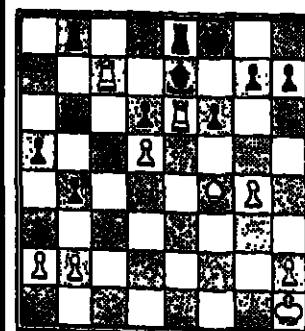
by Nash & Zullo



DURING SPRING TRAINING IN 1933, JUMBO BROWN INJURED TWO OF HIS TEAMMATES — IN A WILD GAME OF LEAP-FROG!

AS THE 295-POUND JUMBO LEAPED, THE PLAYERS COLLAPSED — INCLUDING OUTFIELDER SAM BYRD AND CATCHER CY PERKINS, WHO BOTH LAY INJURED.

## Chess



S. Kudrin (U.S.) v S. Conquest (England), Lloyds Bank 1984. Sergey Kudrin needed to win this diagram as White (to move) to keep in contention for his grandmaster title in the annual Lloyds Bank International at the Park Lane Hotel. White is a pawn down, but this is more than offset by Black's cramped and passive game.

Sergey found the right plan, won the game, and is now Grand Master Kudrin. Can you do as well?

### Chess solution

1. Rf1 Rf2 2. Rf2 Rf1 3. Rf1 Rf2 4. Rf2 Rf1 5. Rf1 Rf2 6. Rf2 Rf1 7. Rf1 Rf2 8. Rf2 Rf1 9. Rf1 Rf2 10. Rf2 Rf1 11. Rf1 Rf2 12. Rf2 Rf1 13. Rf1 Rf2 14. Rf2 Rf1 15. Rf1 Rf2 16. Rf2 Rf1 17. Rf1 Rf2 18. Rf2 Rf1 19. Rf1 Rf2 20. Rf2 Rf1 21. Rf1 Rf2 22. Rf2 Rf1 23. Rf1 Rf2 24. Rf2 Rf1 25. Rf1 Rf2 26. Rf2 Rf1 27. Rf1 Rf2 28. Rf2 Rf1 29. Rf1 Rf2 30. Rf2 Rf1 31. Rf1 Rf2 32. Rf2 Rf1 33. Rf1 Rf2 34. Rf2 Rf1 35. Rf1 Rf2 36. Rf2 Rf1 37. Rf1 Rf2 38. Rf2 Rf1 39. Rf1 Rf2 40. Rf2 Rf1 41. Rf1 Rf2 42. Rf2 Rf1 43. Rf1 Rf2 44. Rf2 Rf1 45. Rf1 Rf2 46. Rf2 Rf1 47. Rf1 Rf2 48. Rf2 Rf1 49. Rf1 Rf2 50. Rf2 Rf1 51. Rf1 Rf2 52. Rf2 Rf1 53. Rf1 Rf2 54. Rf2 Rf1 55. Rf1 Rf2 56. Rf2 Rf1 57. Rf1 Rf2 58. Rf2 Rf1 59. Rf1 Rf2 60. Rf2 Rf1 61. Rf1 Rf2 62. Rf2 Rf1 63. Rf1 Rf2 64. Rf2 Rf1 65. Rf1 Rf2 66. Rf2 Rf1 67. Rf1 Rf2 68. Rf2 Rf1 69. Rf1 Rf2 70. Rf2 Rf1 71. Rf1 Rf2 72. Rf2 Rf1 73. Rf1 Rf2 74. Rf2 Rf1 75. Rf1 Rf2 76. Rf2 Rf1 77. Rf1 Rf2 78. Rf2 Rf1 79. Rf1 Rf2 80. Rf2 Rf1 81. Rf1 Rf2 82. Rf2 Rf1 83. Rf1 Rf2 84. Rf2 Rf1 85. Rf1 Rf2 86. Rf2 Rf1 87. Rf1 Rf2 88. Rf2 Rf1 89. Rf1 Rf2 90. Rf2 Rf1 91. Rf1 Rf2 92. Rf2 Rf1 93. Rf1 Rf2 94. Rf2 Rf1 95. Rf1 Rf2 96. Rf2 Rf1 97. Rf1 Rf2 98. Rf2 Rf1 99. Rf1 Rf2 100. Rf2 Rf1

## JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



**ARIES** (21 March - 19 April): Take a temporary job if you cannot find the full-time position you want. You could learn something. Joining clubs helps you make contacts. Speaking a foreign language comes in handy. Quick decisions are necessary when you deal with influential people. A close friend's advice is worth following. Your finances may need attention. A surprise could have a startling effect on your future.

**TAURUS** (20 April - 20 May): A hobby could turn into a real money-maker. Seek experts' advice. A change of lifestyle will give you greater energy. Straighten out a personnel problem as quickly as possible. Romance could prove baffling. Your energy may rise and fall in concert with your enthusiasm. Strive for a better balance between work and play. Be sensitive to other people's feelings. Share your ideas with those who can help.

**GEMINI** (21 May - 20 June): Indulge a love for travel and make money, too! Visit an old friend who can furnish you with the names of contacts or new business leads. Offer this person a finder's fee. Choose your words carefully when discussing sensitive issues. Use your family ties to better advantage. Review all your options before making plans. Write to friends. Love will reign supreme this week.

**CANCER** (21 June - 22 July): Friends will pitch in if you run out of steam. Dwelling on a disappointment or sorrowful occurrence could distract you from work. Be more philosophical. Better days lie just ahead! A spontaneous discussion could lead to greater rapport with an influential member of the opposite sex. You need to set some specific goals for yourself. Others are eager to follow where you lead.

**LEO** (23 July - 22 Aug): Something or someone could stop you from carrying out your plans. Hot words and hasty actions can spell trouble. Take a deep breath and curb your anger. Work is excellent therapy for "the blues." Unexpected developments are featured this week. Being flexible will help you through a rough period. Your business plans are strongly influenced by distant events. Doublecheck someone's figures.

**VIRGO** (23 Aug. - 22 Sept.): One of your plans could succeed far beyond your fondest dreams. Strike a bargain in order to obtain your heart's desire. An excellent evening for romance and happy pastimes. Stroll down Memory Lane. Take a trip for either business or pleasure — the result will astound you. Fascinating new friendships lead to romance or higher profits. A good pal provides valuable job information. Be appreciative.

**LIBRA** (23 Sept. - 22 Oct.): You need to be more prudent than usual in your financial dealings this month. Someone may attempt to pull the wool over your eyes. A lack of sleep could undermine your health. Do some serious thinking about your career. Conventional methods will work best in business. Act on your own ideas even if it would be easier to go along with the crowd. Pursue romance.

**SCORPIO** (23 Oct. - 21 Nov.): Look your best. Your loved ones make great claims on your time and energy. They need to learn new values. This is no time to gamble with your money or emotions. Avoid all forms of gambling this week and make a special effort to be nicer to family members. Release nervous energy through exercise. Travel enjoys highly favorable influences. Contact old friends.

**SAGITTARIUS** (22 Nov. - 21 Dec.): Concentrate on building stronger relationships. Do not antagonize those you will need on your team. Business entertainment will pay off handsomely. Ask the bank to raise your credit line. Your instincts about new people and situations are right on target. Share your thoughts with that special someone. Your powers of concentration are high. Tackle a project requiring precision.

**CAPRICORN** (22 Dec. - 19 Jan.): You are moving into position to make a remarkable comeback at work. Follow your heart. Something you have held in reserve should be released. Financial worries subside. Keep your car in good repair. Changes are in the works at both the office and home. Someone applauds your decisions. Study your spending patterns before re-vamping the family budget. Romance keeps you guessing.

**AQUARIUS** (20 Jan. - 18 Feb.): Take advantage of an unusual opportunity. Be more affectionate. Time is on your side where a parent-child conflict is concerned. Strengthen a promising alliance. Spend more evenings with your family. New work plans can be put into operation. Rely on your intuition when dealing with personal matters. A lack of co-operation at home could lead to some tense moments. Extend the olive branch.

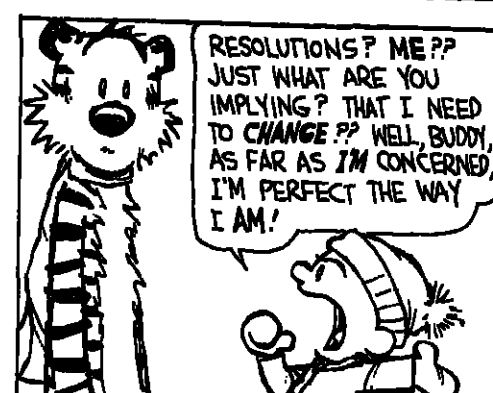
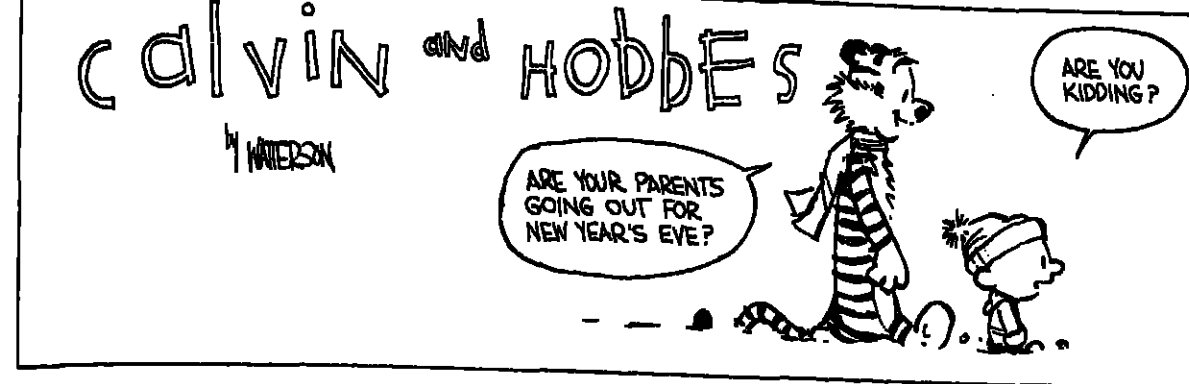
**PISCES** (19 Feb. - 20 March): Focus on your long-term goals. A computer helps bring important records up to date. A child or friend needs extra encouragement. Try to arrange your work schedule to suit your family better. The emphasis now is on making more money. Overseas contacts hold the solution to a career or financial problem. Events beyond your control could set off fireworks in the romance department.

**THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN:** are friendly and outgoing but quite capable of sulking when they do not get their way. They are happiest when part of a group. They dislike being alone and constantly seek new adventures. These youngsters need to know exactly where they stand and what is expected of them. Their strong sense of duty to family and friends usually keeps them on the straight-and-narrow. They do not want to disappoint those who trust them. A legal career may hold special appeal.

## Comics

### calvin and hobbes

by WATSON



FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M STAYING LIKE THIS, AND EVERYONE ELSE CAN JUST GET USED TO IT. IF PEOPLE DON'T LIKE ME THE WAY I AM, WELL, TOUGH BEANS! IT'S A FREE COUNTRY! I DON'T NEED ANYONE'S PERMISSION TO BE THE WAY I WANT. THIS IS HOW I AM - TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!

